Daily Report

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Alia's Visit to UN General Assembly Viewed

AU1709125290 Tirana ATA in English 0802 GMT 17 Sep 90

["Reconfirmation of the Albanian Policy for International Relations and Cooperation—On the Eve of the 45th Session of the UN General Assembly"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, September 17 (ATA)—The Albanian and world public opinion are informed that the head of the Albanian state, Comrade Ramiz Alia, will attend the 45th session of the UN General Assembly. This marks an important event in the international activity of Albania as a further materialization of the commitment of our foreign policy to a broader communication with the world, to relations and cooperation in new forms, based on the observation of the fundamental principles arranging the relations among the states—the observation of national freedom, independence and sovereignty, of the way of development chosen by the people themselves.

The next session of the UN General Assembly will be held in the framework of the jubilee of this international organisation, as well as in a year full of numerous and important events in the world. They broaden the significance of this session and the responsibility of each country to render its concrete contribution to the positive development of these processes in the interest of peace, security and progress of mankind.

In the course of these 45 years the UNO [United Nations Organization] proved the values of its charter, in which the equality, sovereignty and independence for all became a principled necessity. The UNO is now turned into an international forum of harmonizing the common aspirations of the peoples of the world for freedom and independence, national emancipation and social progress, for international peace and security.

UNO's special engagement in the recent years, in which its secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, has had special merit, has made possible that many sharp problems of the time be actively coped with, such as the regional conflicts and problems of disarmament, of the human rights and democratization of the international relations. All these testify to the fact that the UNO, as an international organisation, justifies the goals it was created for 45 years ago.

Since its admission to the UNO 35 years ago, the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania has devoted the respective importance to this assembly. It has adhered to the principle that all the states, despite their size, are equal in the international relations. It has been and is for their democratization, when, without denying the responsibility of the big states to protect general peace and security, a full equality is imperative among various countries in judging upon the phenomena, adopting the decisions and for the effective solution to the problems. Albania has always voiced in this forum its readiness for the further development of the relations with the other states on the basis of equality and mutual interest, of noninterference into the internal affairs, observation of national sovereignty and nonviolation of territorial integrity. Implementing this policy, today our country maintains diplomatic relations with 113 countries as against 14 in 1955, when it was admitted to the UNO.

The visit by the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, to Albania a few months ago, his summit meetings, the spirit of understanding that pervaded them marked a new stage in the cooperation of our country with the UNO. The participation of the head of the Albanian state, Comrade Ramiz Alia, in the new session of the UN General Assembly precisely in the framework of its 45th anniversary, will mark another step forward in this direction.

Comrade Ramiz Alia described the participation of our country in this session as a "gesture which confirms the Albanian policy for international relations and cooperation with all the countries, according to norms and regulations based on the UN Charter, as a step which will show that we are not only members, but also active participants in the UNO, that we wish to render our utmost contribution to questions that have to do with the maintenance of peace and strengthening of the security in the world."

Planning Official Kolaneci on Wage Increases

AU1909050390 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 13 Sep 90 p 1

[Interview with State Planning Commission Chairman Bujar Kolaneci by ZERI I POPULLIT editor; place and date not given: "An Expression of the Superiority of Our Social Order—A Clear Decision, Fast Action"]

[Text] [ZERI I POPULLIT] Comrade Bujar, all our working people are now in possession of an important decision involving their prosperity. What does this measure mean?

[Kolaneci] The decision of the Council of Ministers, "On Raising Low Wages," is one of the most important measures so far taken in the field of wages. About 642,000 working people will benefit from an additional 430 million leks in the wage fund. If we add to this the effects of the decision on wage rates according to category of work and workplace and the decree guaranteeing 80 percent of wages when work stops for no fault of the worker, this sum rises to about 500 million leks, and the number of workers benefiting rises by several tens of thousands.

It is clear from these figures that we are not dealing with a simple adjustment of wage rates, but with a major political, economic, and social step. It is another measure in the economic policy of the party and the state to increase the prosperity of our working masses, which is connected with the inexorable process of democratizing

economic life. It is, therefore, important to properly understand and analyze its meaning. Working people will profit from the wage increase as long as they fulfill their working hours and labor norms. Those who exceed them will benefit more. We are dealing with an increase in basic wage rates, but we should not forget that social consumption is an important factor in working people's prosperity and influences the increase of their real incomes.

[ZERI I POPULLIT] A great deal of work was done in a short time to finish the research before this decree was issued. What do you think about the problems which will emerge in implementing it?

[Kolaneci] The first wage slips on 1 October will be drawn up with the new wages. There is, therefore, a very short preparatory period for implementing the decree. The task is to take the most effective measures in the ministries and the state's executive organs in the districts and enterprises in order to inform every worker about everything. The decree is clear. We can say that work to circulate the relevant instructions began yesterday.

I think that the most important thing is to calculate accurately all the effects which will follow. This supplement to the funds for wages will have a significant effect on the people's purchasing power and will increase demand on the market. The solution here is to fulfill regularly and fully priority tasks in sectors involving the supply of the people with staple consumer goods and services. There will also be an influence on such other economic and financial indicators as costs, wholesale prices, profitability, and so forth. This means a need to coordinate the 1991 draft plan, which we are now preparing. The aim is to find ways and lay down measures in order to raise labor productivity, reduce costs, and use the funds for wages more effectively.

Fuel Shortage 'Worsened Dramatically' by Embargo

AU1909084090 Paris AFP in English 0759 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Sofia, 19 Sep (AFP)—Seven hours in a queue to buy gasoline that has doubled in price—that is the unenviable fate of Bulgarian drivers these days, while housewives stand in other lines in front of Sofia stores to try to come up with that vanishing breed known as consumer products.

The Bulgarian oil crisis was set off by a sharp reduction in deliveries of Soviet crude to East European countries, but it worsened dramatically following the Bulgarian Government's decision to respect the international embargo imposed on Iraq following its August invasion of Kuwait.

Before the Gulf crisis, Iraq was paying off a 1.3 billion dollar debt to Bulgaria with oil deliveries. But now, motorists here who manage to fill their tank after waiting some seven hours at the pumps are the envy of others who wait day and night at certain stations for the next fuel delivery.

Last Saturday [15 September], two roads leaving Sofia were blocked by angry drivers lining up to buy gasoline. They accused some other drivers moving along of having gotten gas on the black market.

Some Bulgarians mock fire risks by accumulating hundreds of liters of gasoline at home, either as a reserve for the winter, when the situation will be even tougher, or to resell on the black market. Enterprising traffickers offer gasoline to cars in transit for Turkey at the modest price of 3.20 dollars a liter, twice the official price at stations where gasoline can be bought for foreign currency.

Bulgarians, who were already hit by a doubling of gasoline prices in July, can get the precious substance on the black market at a price around 120 per cent higher than the official level.

Ambulances, fire trucks, farm tractors and public transportation still circulate regularly, but their operation is expected to decrease in the winter.

An Energy Ministry official, queried by AFP, said the number of Sofia buses will be cut in half in the winter, while central heating will operate only when the temperature falls below freezing. He said the available heating oil stocks were only enough to maintain minimum operation of the energy system.

The official said the government could be forced to make temporary cuts in the production of the chemical and metallurgical industries, which consume large amounts of energy.

Coal and natural gas are unfindable, and electricity blackouts are expected to occur frequently as soon as fall begins. "The only important thing is how my family can get through the winter", say many Bulgarians.

The newspaper of the Socialist (formerly Communist) Party, DUMA, has reproached the United Nations Security Council for having forgotten Bulgaria. It noted that the Council had called for financial assistance for Egypt, Jordan and Turkey due to those countries' losses stemming from application of the embargo, but not for Bulgaria.

Export of Milk, Meat Products Banned Until Mar

AU1809122490 Sofia BTA in English 1209 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Export of Agricultural Products Banned"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 18 Sep (BTA)—The Council of Ministers has adopted a decree to secure the population with products in the autumn and winter period.

The exports of meat and meat-based products, milk and milk foods are absolutely banned until the end of March next year. Until the new crop is harvested, all export of forage grain, cereals, sunflower-seeds, vegetable oil, legumes, soya, potatoes, onions and garlic is prohibited.

Temporary Cheese Rationing Begins in Sofia

AU1809162590 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 14 Sep 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Half a Kilogram of Cheese Until the End of the Month"]

[Text] Half a kilogram of cheese: This is the quantity allocated to every Sofia citizen until the end of the month. As of 14 September, this quantity may be obtained in the stores in exchange for coupon No. 3. The 400 grams of kashkaval [yellow cheese], which can be obtained by using coupon No. 4 at the beginning of October, must apparently last until the end of the month.

The quantity borders on the minimum. The Sofia City People's Council did not try to accumulate a substantial quantity and allowed the immediate sale of cheese for coupons in order to decrease tension in the market. At a news conference it was stressed that this minimum has been guaranteed until the end of the year. If there are any changes, they can only be positive.

It is most probable that the fifth coupon will be used for detergents. The necessary quantity is being accumulated now.

No regulated distribution of meat and poultry is envisaged at least for the months of September and October.

There is no sugar in the "Sredets," "Vuzrazhdane," "Oborishte," and a part of "Triaditsa" Municipalities. On the other hand, only 10 percent of the sugar in "Vitosha" Municipality has been sold. Additional quantities are delivered to the place where there is no sugar. Sugar can also be purchased at certain stores operated by economic enterprises. This should help the citizens.

No speculation with foodstuffs has been registered so far by the Committee on State and People's Control.

The distribution of coupons continues.

BSP Reacts to SDS Attitude on Forming Cabinet

AU1809140390 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Sep 90 p 1

["Declaration" of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) Supreme Council and Parliamentary Group issued in Sofia on 14 September]

[Text] From 10 November 1989 until now, and especially at the roundtable, in parliament, and before and after the elections, the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] proved that it adheres to the principle of cooperation with the opposition—honest, open, and loyal cooperation, aimed only at our country's well-being. Our party made many concessions and compromises in the name of that well-being and cooperation.

However, the country has been without a government for three months already—an unprecedented case in Bulgarian history. After the election of the president—which would have been impossible without the agreement of the BSP—the country anticipated a rapid resolution of the executive power issue. Even before the elections, the BSP conducted a policy of the outstretched hand. Even before the elections, the BSP proposed to form a coalition government with the opposition from the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS]. This was not done to make the SDS assume responsibility for the past or the present. It is the BSP that assumes this political responsibility, despite the fact that there is a great difference between the policy of Zhivkovism and that of the BSP. Those who do not see this difference do not see political reality.

However, the outstretched hand was rejected. The proposal to form a coalition government was not accepted by the opposition, and it will bear historical responsibility for this.

The BSP proposed instead the formation of a coalition government; a government of individuals who will represent their various parties. This proposal also was rejected by the opposition.

The BSP proposed to form a government of individuals who will join the government without committing the various parties within the SDS to which they belong. This proposal also was rejected by the opposition.

This is completely clear from the 13 September declaration of the SDS Coordinating Council which states that "the prerequisites and conditions for the SDS participation in any form in the coalition government proposed by the BSP, do not exist at the moment." This declaration impresses one with its categorical tone and lack of constructive spirit. It signals a new development in the SDS—the significant strengthening and perhaps, superiority of the rightist forces in the SDS.

At the same time today, 14 September 1990, in his address to parliament, President Zhelyu Zhelev proposed something new—to form a government on the basis of a program jointly worked out by the political forces in parliament. We think that this proposal merits our attention. It corresponds to our willingness to form a government of national consensus based on the cooperation of the political forces within and outside parliament. This can be accomplished with the agreement of the SDS. The BSP is prepared to make this experiment; it corresponds to its policy of the outstretched hand. However, the BSP firmly adheres to the opinion that one should immediately approach the formation of such a government, and that it should be approved by the Grand National Assembly by the beginning of next week. If this proves impossible the party with the majority will be compelled to form a government without the SDS, thus assuming an historic responsibility to the people and the country.

The existing situation cannot continue any longer. The opposition is conducting a policy of protraction by continuously posing new conditions which only lead toward placing the country in a truly chaotic situation.

The BSP cannot agree to this. Obviously, this opinion of the opposition is the opinion of its rightist forces, which not only do not want to cooperate with the BSP, but would like to see the BSP disappear from the country's political life, or even witness its physical annihilation. Setting fire to the BSP headquarters was a sinister warning. Now we must say clearly and unequivocally to our people and the entire world: The danger of physical violence against the political opponents and mass oppression of the basic rights and freedoms exists again in our country!

The Grand National Assembly, the Presidency, and the anticipated government must remove this danger. The BSP will support those institutions with all its force. The government that we anticipate must firmly adhere to a basic line: the transition from totalitarianism to democracy. It must firmly adhere to the only possible road toward democracy: the peaceful transition. It must implement a comprehensive program on moving toward a market economy. It must continue the dialogue with all political forces. This is required by the interests of our people, the interests of Bulgaria.
14 September 1990, Sofia.
BSP Supreme Council and Parliamentary Group.

Outlines Proposed Plan

AU1809170290 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Sep 90 p 1

["Decision of the Bulgarian Socialist Party Supreme Council and Parliamentary Group"; place and date not given]

1. The Bulgarian Socialist Party Supreme Council and Parliamentary Group find appropriate the participation by representatives of the BSP Parliamentary Group in a

joint commission with the other parliamentary forces in working out a draft governmental program which will be adopted by parliamentary consensus, in accordance with the proposal of the president of the Republic.

They believe that a government must be formed in the next few days on the basis of the coordinated parliamentary program.

2. If this does not happen, the BSP Supreme Council and Parliamentary Group consider it appropriate that Comrade Andrey Lukanov propose a list of government members without the participation of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], and submit it to the approval of the Grand National Assembly on the basis of the mandate given to him by the Grand National Assembly.

3. The BSP Supreme Council and Parliamentary Group adopt the declaration of the BSP Supreme Council on the situation in the country and the SDS declaration on the issue of forming the government.

Socialists Express Readiness for New Government

AU1809120390 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Sep 90 pp 1, 4

[Dora Chichkova and Vasil Popov report: "The Bulgarian Socialist Party Assumes Responsibility for the Government"]

[Text] The Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] is ready to form a competent and strong government as early as by the middle of next week. This does not mean that the party will miss even the slightest possibility of involving representatives from other political forces within this period.

The view of the BSP Supreme Council and the BSP parliamentary group was expressed in a decision and declaration adopted at their joint meeting held yesterday.

The BSP declares categorically that it cannot agree with the further postponement of the government issue. According to several speakers at the meeting, the refusal of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] to participate in a coalition government with the BSP and the president's address to the Grand National Assembly by no means contribute to a solution to this problem. A number of speakers categorically defined such statements as a deliberate attempt to postpone the solution.

Andrey Lukanov described the SDS declaration as a controversial document aimed at confrontation. This does not show a change for the better in the SDS policy, the prime minister said, but a negative turning point in its evolution, which appeared from the joint consultations. Lukanov briefed the audience in detail on his meetings and negotiations with leaders of the political forces which were attended by the president of the Republic.

Serious differences with the SDS representatives manifested themselves during the first meeting. Dr. Petur Dertliev's stand was the most irreconcilable. He declared that he does not object to members of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party being appointed ministers in the new cabinet, but this would mean their expulsion from the party. Dertliev did not show up at the second meeting, Lukanov stated.

It is no secret that Petur Beron, chairman of the SDS Coordinating Council, was sharply attacked for his support for the idea of a national government and for having expressed his personal readiness to participate in it. Some people even assume the possibility that Dertliev might take over the SDS leadership. This would not only be a punishment for Beron, but would complete the already emerging shift to the right within the opposition.

The SDS's strategy is evident, the BSP chairman said: It is to overthrow the BSP and destroy it. The opposition applies the tactics of postponing the establishment of the government, of exacerbating the state of anarchy, and the current crisis, of encouraging a split within the BSP parliamentary group and the party itself, of promoting a new escalation of extremism. We may expect strong pressure from the street mob, violence, strikes, and the instigation of school children's and university students' unrest.

The BSP will pursue its policy of peaceful transition to democracy and reform, Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the BSP Supreme Council continued. Along with the other possible alternatives for a the establishment of a new government, we should also prepare ourselves for a BSP one-party government, he said. The rapidly changing situation forces us not to rely on diplomacy alone, which should not mean an end of the dialogue.

The alarming SDS declaration and the tactical moves of the right-wing forces within the opposition, however, evoke our concern about the country's future and about civil peace, the speakers at the BSP meeting pointed out. One of them stressed the existence of indications that the opposition is preparing actions for the upcoming week and for the period following it. The wish was expressed that the minister of internal affairs inform the public about facts indicating such plans.

Filip Bokov urged that the question, of whether it is true that one of the investigators of the party headquarters' arson had been withdrawn from the case because he insisted that Koshlukov be cited as a defendant, should be answered publicly. It is true that his tasks were transferred to another investigator.

Ten days prior to the arson, the leader of the Bulgarian Socialist Democratic Party, standing on the stairs of the National Bank building, pointed at the party headquarters shouting: "Heroes, this is your target," Anzhel Vagenshtayn recalled. He added that our tolerance, our readiness for dialogue and mutual compromise is occasionally viewed as the retreat of a defeated regiment.

Other speakers urged that the BSP at last begin to behave like a party which has won the elections, as a ruling party, as a party which is capable of defending its ideas and of protecting the people's peaceful life.

There is something illogical in the opposition's striving to participate in local government, while, on the other hand, categorically refusing to participate in a coalition government—this subject was also discussed during the lively debates. Some speakers, such as Ivan Genoa, expressed doubts about the sincere intentions of the president's address.

Speakers Valeri Tsekov, Ilyan Iliev, Rumen Serbezov, Lyuben Gotsev, Georgi Grigorov, Mincho Yovchev, Krasimir Premyanov, Vasil Dimitrov, Azarya Polikarov, Pencho Penev, Todor Boyadzhiev, Mikhay Savov, and Petur Mladenov also expressed their shared uneasiness about the situation created as a result of the SDS declaration and at the processes under way in the country and related to the establishment of a new government, and their genuine concern about the danger of chaos and anarchy which threatens the country.

Todorov Expects List of New Cabinet 19 Sep

AU1809135390 Sofia BTA in English 1331 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Cabinet Still Under Question Mark"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 18 Sep (BTA)—Senior officials of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BSP) [as received] and of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) today keep working on the platform of the program government suggested on Friday [14 September] by the president of the Republic, Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, academician Nikolay Todorov, chairman of the Grand National Assembly, told the press today.

The program commission was formed back on Friday evening and started work right away. Academician Todorov said that ten to fifteen people first tabled extensive suggestions. Yesterday and today "the senior officials authorized by their parties have been drafting the definitive text."

The document they are working on will be handed to Mr Andrey Lukanov, who has been asked to form a government. "I expect him to announce the composition of his cabinet tomorrow," Academician Todorov said. If the political forces represented in Parliament find the program satisfactory, it may be carried by consensus. Still, a government may have to be formed even without completing the debate on its program, Academician Todorov believes.

Mr Lukanov will have to assess the program, and he can express agreements and disagreements before seeking the assistance of the people to whom he would offer ministerial portfolios. Moreover, the opposition said yesterday that it accepts a program government if it would work with its campaign platform and if deadlines are set for the implementation of the program.

Political Parties Hold Final Consultations

AU1809191590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Announcement by presidential spokesman Valentin Stoyanov; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic, final consultations were held today between the leaders of the political parties on the formation of the new government.

Dr. Petur Beron, chairman of the Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], explained the reasons why the SDS refused to participate in the government. The reasons boiled down to the fact the SDS's conditions for taking part were not acceptable to the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], the party which holds a parliamentary majority.

The position of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union [BZNS], as BZNS Secretary Viktor Vulkov stated, remained unchanged—namely, not to take part in a two-party government.

BSP leader Aleksandur Lilov expressed regret that the formula proposed by the president in his address to the Grand National Assembly was unacceptable to the SDS.

Given this situation, Andrey Lukanov, who has been charged with the task of forming the government, stated that he will probably announce as early as tomorrow the composition of the government, which will not include those who do not wish to take part in it. He expressed the hope that the new government and its program, which will be announced later, will win a parliamentary consensus in order to allow implementation of the most urgent measures needed to rescue the country from the crisis.

Todorov Says New Government 'Most Important Task'

AU1809192390 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] At the news conference given by the Bureau of the Grand National Assembly today, Chairman Academician Nikolay Todorov spoke about the immediate problems facing parliament.

The most important task facing the Grand National Assembly at the present moment, whose successful solution all the Bulgarian people are awaiting with great impatience, he said, is the formation of the government.

Agreement was expressed with the position of the president of the Republic concerning the role of the Grand National Assembly, which was set out in his address delivered at the sitting of 13 September.

Academician Nikolay Todorov answered journalists' questions connected with the adoption of the code of regulations on the work of the Grand National Assembly and with the closed and open sessions of the permanent commissions. He stated that the establishment of clear regulations of procedure and strict observance of them will undoubtedly contribute to raising the effectiveness of the activities of the Grand National Assembly.

Parliamentary Commissions View Draft Legislation

AU1809193390 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Today nine permanent commissions held sessions in the Grand National Assembly.

The Budget Commission discussed the Pensions Act and adopted a plan for its work until the end of the year.

The Legislative Commission continued its discussion of the amendments and addenda to the Law on the Political Parties and the Pensions Act.

The Commission on Economic Policy discussed a bill on the main directions for the country's transition to a market economy and adopted a conclusion concerning the ratification by the Grand National Assembly of the agreement between Bulgaria and the EC concerning trade and commercial and economic cooperation, signed on 8 May 1990, in Brussels.

The Commission on Culture and Intellectual Values continued discussion of a draft law on the Bulgarian National Library.

The Commission on Health Care and Sport concluded its examination of a draft law on amendments and addenda to the Law on National Health. Among the new proposals submitted, the most important is the proposal to introduce private practice by medical specialists in state, private, and cooperative health institutions and doctors' offices.

The Commission on Labor, Social Protection, and Citizens' Security also examined the Pensions Act, including the proposal by People's Deputy Dimitur Ludzhev to repeal Section Three of the Pensions Act, which concerns pensions for special services and national pensions.

The Commission on Inquiries also held a sitting concerning the dossiers of the people's deputies, but this commission is meeting only in closed session.

Also sitting in parliament are the Commission on Parliamentary Ethics and the Commission on Citizens' Petitions, Complaints, and Proposals.

The session of the Permanent Commission on Human Rights and the Nationality Issue also examined the draft law on amendments and addenda to the Law on the Political Parties. The commission adopted a decision to set up three subcommissions on parliamentary control of the observance of human rights; on problems connected with the nationality issue; and on problems concerning religious faiths.

Internal Affairs Minister on Need for Law, Order

AU1809175290 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 14 Sep 90 pp 1,3

[Colonel Boris Khristov report: "Democracy Cannot Exit Without Law and Order"]

[Excerpts] Tomorrow the Ministry of Internal Affairs employees celebrate their official anniversary. The overall atmosphere in our country is not particularly happy and none of us seems to be in a very festive mood. Nevertheless, even in much more tragic situations, the people did not forget to celebrate their holidays. This is absolutely understandable. [passage omitted]

The employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs seem to be fully aware of their situation and responsibility. For this reason I take advantage of the opportunity presented by the meeting held by Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic with the leading staffs of the Armed Forces and security organs in our country, to report in detail the statement which Pencho Penev, minister of internal affairs, made on this occasion.

Addressing the president, Minister Penev said: I think that I am expressing the thoughts and mood of the Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives in confessing to you that we also desired and eagerly awaited this meeting, not only as a formal occasion, despite the fact that this fact also matters, considering how busy you are in this difficult period, but also because we are seriously concerned about our country's fate and clearly aware of the great responsibility and obligations entrusted to us. We also share the thoughts and assessments which you just expressed.

Our country is entering a new, unprecedented stage in its historical development. We can say that two processes which oppose each other are proceeding side by side. On the one hand, we are gradually, but irrevocably liberating ourselves from the totalitarian system and establishing the foundations of a future, democratic state, ruled by law, and endowed with the characteristic economic, political, and social features. On the other hand, we are permanently deteriorating, under the burden of a severe economic, political, and moral crisis. The crisis is aggravated by a further escalating political confrontation. Such stormy political relations which literally upset every Bulgarian home are unprecedented in our most recent history. The existing parties, coalitions, and movements are seeking their own identity and role in their social basis. The diversity of political ideas and platforms, which are marked by the shortcomings of their hasty initial development characterized by political immaturity, is presently focusing the political situation in one, single direction—namely toward the struggle for power. Manifestations of political extremism from left

and right, which are the attributes of this development, are expanding. Antidemocratic and reactionary forces, which for the time being have not been totally identified and who are hiding behind the first, broad wave of political pluralism, behind the real and imaginary forces of the popular moods, have already taken action. It is still too early for a full assessment of all these phenomena, however, the events of 26 August 1990, the pogrom and arson attack against the headquarters of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] included, require us to pay exceptionally great attention to such incipient forces, to the factors which are stimulating them and overtly, or secretly guiding them, according to their tactical and strategic goals.

The deteriorating economic situation also further exacerbates the already difficult social situation. The specter of poverty genuinely threatens certain people, especially the socially weak strata. The slow advance of work of our parliament disappoints the people in their expectations. The impatience of the broad people's masses is growing, their demands being always ahead of the solutions for vitally important problems. The people's dissatisfaction is growing, the confidence crisis between the population and the government is increasing, and a nihilist approach to law and order is prevailing. The crime rate is growing as well, and we shall presumably face new trends in this respect during the upcoming autumn and winter season. Unfortunately, the nature of criminality is also changing as regards its quality and quantity aspects, and organized crime is expected to expand. It is a well-known fact, that criminality usually adjusts to the circumstances and fills the vaccum of unresolved economic and political problems.

A wave of national separatism and ethnic conflicts is rising all over the world and in the Balkan region. We should take this situation very seriously because of the unresolved historic problems concerning our country in this respect. [passage omitted]

Under such circumstances, attention is focused on the Ministry of Internal Affairs organs. Being subject to increasing criticism, they are purged to intensify their activities at the same time. We accept justified criticism and admit that there is reason for discontent about our work, and we do not shun our responsibilities. The comprehensive activities and the situation of the Internal Affairs Ministry, however, cannot be discussed in isolation from the general situation in our country and from the factor influencing this situation, from the situation of the state organs as a whole over the period following 10 November 1990. The uncertainty of our situation, the state of expectation, the hesitations, the restricted functions, the inconsistency, and reduced effectiveness: All of these things exerted their impact on our organs. The considerable structural and cadre changes within the Ministry of Internal Affairs which are known to you, Mr. President, also exerted their impact. We are also suffering under the routine of the past, which makes it even more difficult for the ministry's organs to find their way and to introduce new forms and methods of work as they are required to in a democratic society. The lack of experience and the lack of new laws prevent us from introducing the relevant internal regulations. Our material-technical equipment is also far behind that of more advanced countries. Deteriorating public prestige, the inferior social position, the insufficient legal and social protection granted to the employees of the Internal Affairs Ministry are also exerting a negative impact. All these circumstances, along with certain internal weaknesses and organizational shortcomings, negatively influence the effectiveness of the ministry's work. Despite the fact that I deliberately dwelled on only the negative aspects of our work which we should strive to improve, we must all admit that the organs of the Internal Affairs Ministry played the role of guarantors for the healthy political forces in the transition to democracy, especially during the period of democratic elections. We should not forget this.

We should by all means improve the staff's morale and stabilize their moral-psychological state of mind, at this point. We should inspire them with confidence in their own role and functions, as important factors of the democratic process, we should strengthen their conviction that their work is significant and useful. We should by all means guarantee a broad political and public support for their activities in protecting national security and public order. In this connection, we rely on your assistance, Mr. President, and on the understanding of the parliament, so that new laws on the various departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the law on the police forces, in particular, should be adopted.

Minister Pencho Penev closed his statement with the following remarks: We intend to devote particular attention to the management and organization of the forces and of the necessary resources required for them, to the full fledged and optimal implementation of the information-analytical and prognosticating activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs organs in assisting the state and government leadership in their adopting decisions and in guaranteeing national security and public order. We shall continue further to renew our cadres relying on their loyalty to the country and to the people, and on their professional skills, ethical virtues, moral strength, and their faithful service to the laws and democratic processes. Naturally, all our actions will be linked to the country's new doctrine on national security and to some of the aspects which you, Mr. President, mentioned in your address. I would like to point out that Bulgaria's development in the recent past shows that we are proceeding along the correct path in building our own model of transition to a democratic social system. Only through our joint and honest efforts, the efforts of all those who are sincerely concerned about our homeland's future and our people's interests, only through the joint efforts of all those who subject their actions to common sense and to a realistic assessment of social realities, shall we be capable of positively influencing the processes of development in our country. I assure you, Mr. President, that

the organs of the Internal Affairs Ministry shall firmly and unshakably follow you along this path. [passage omitted]

BSP Congress Reports Revenue Decreased Sharply

AU1809164690 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Sep 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The Revenue in Party Safes Sharply Decreases"]

[Text] Concern with the financial situation of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] was voiced at the plenary session of the Central Finance-Auditing Commission, at which the draft of the report to the 39th BSP Congress was discussed. The revenue in the party safes has sharply decreased. The membership fees, which according to the provisional charter are determined on the basis of a low percentage of the members' income, are not paid regularly. The situation is especially difficult in the party councils of the small municipalities, which cannot afford to maintain a minimum apparatus for coping with elementary needs.

During the plenum's debate, it was specifically pointed out that the BSP's financial-economic problems are political matters, which involve political responsibility.

Provisional Local Government Committees Founded

AU1809133090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] In Ruse consultations among political forces represented in the Grand National Assembly have taken place. A Provisional Executive Committee of the Municipal People's Council was established and it will be presented to the chairman of the Council of Ministers for approval.

The Provisional Executive Committee consists of 11 members. Four of them belong to the Bulgarian Socialist Party, three to the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], two to the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union, and one each to the Fatherland Union and the Fatherland Labor Party. Todor Tsanev, chairman of the SDS Coordinating Council in Ruse, was appointed chairman of the Provisional Executive Committee.

National Committee Probes Computer Plant Dispute

AU1809183590 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Today the National Committee for Coordinating Interests held a meeting to examine the collective labor dispute at the memory devices plant in Stara Zagora. Deputy Council of Ministers Chairman Nora Ananieva and representatives of the National Alliance of Economic Leaders, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions, and the Podkrepa Labor Confederation took part.

The committee proposed that the Administrative Council of the Disk Memory Devices Company, after first consulting the strike committee, should comprehensively discuss, jointly with the leadership of the plant's trade union organizations, the issue of electing a new suitable leadership, taking into consideration the real social situation and the economic interests of the company and plant.

A recommendation was made that the Ministry of Industry and Technologies should examine the state of the Disk Memory Devices Company and Plant and the prospects for developing them before the end of October, and issue reasoned proposals for possible structural changes in the entire socioeconomic program.

TU Confederation Denounces 'Podkrepa' Activity

AU1809152790 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian 14 Sep 90 p 1

["Declaration of the Coordination Council of the Confederation of the Independent Bulgarian Trade Unions"; place and date not given]

[Text] A meeting of the Coordination Council of the Confederation of the Independent Bulgarian Trade Union [TU] took place on 13 September. Many facts related to the continuing active political activity of the "Podkrepa" Labor Confederation in economic enterprises were presented. Recalling that such activity is banned in principle by the law and contradicts the agreements signed at the national roundtable, the Coordination Council of the Confederation of the Independent Bulgarian Trade Unions again declares its attitude toward this issue:

Every attempt to create political confrontation in the labor collectives, weakens not only the various trade unions, but also threatens the labor collective itself. Today, when the Bulgarian working people more than ever before need unity and trade union cooperation, stirring political confrontations and clashes at places of work inflicts irreparable damage on the ability of the labor collectives to defend their rights.
13 September, 1990.

Radio Workers Threaten Strike Over Pay Agreement

AU1809155990 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1500 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] On 10 August we reported on the "Khorizont" Program that, following talks held between the leadership of the Radio Committee on the one side, and representatives of the strike committees of Radio Plovdiv and Radio Varna, the journalist associations of the

National Radio and Television Trade Union in Bulgarian Radio, the Radio Association under the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, and the regional radio stations in Stara Zagora, Shumen, and Blagoevgrad on the other, an internal agreement was reached to present a motivated claim for an increase in the average salary within the Bulgarian Radio organization. The necessary funds for this increase are to be provided from the state budget.

One month and three days after the submission of the proposal to the Council of Ministers, a bilateral agreement on satisfying the general claim is in existence, but no decision has been made on implementing this agreement.

The strike committee at Bulgarian Radio in Sofia finds it necessary to inform listeners that if the government continues to delay in adopting a satisfactory decision, the program and creative collectives will take token and effective strike actions, in accordance with the Law on Settling Collective Labor Disputes.

Changes, Tension in DEMOKRATSIYA Viewed

AU1809164390 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Divorce in DEMOKRATSIYA?"]

[Text] Today, 15 September, the daily DEMOKRATSIYA was supposed to change its leadership. It is possible that after hearing expressions of "gratitude for the good work, and at their own request because of their work load," Petko Simeonov and Yordan Vasilev will relinquish the posts of director and chief editor to Georgi Spasov and Rumyana Uzunova. At least this is what the decision of the Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS]—announced and specified at two news conferences—provided for.

However, a part of the newspaper's collective disagrees with the personnel changes and with the intention of the SDS Coordinating Council to turn DEMOKRATSIYA into its organ. Some people from the newspaper, who for obvious reasons requested to remain anonymous, said: If they try to impose such a decision on us, we shall resist and perhaps resort to legal but radical methods of protest." [quotation marks as published]

According to well-informed sources, many of the collective members not only prefer the present leaders, but also fear the cadre ambitions of one of the two candidates, who reportedly, likes to surround himself with his own people. At present, journalists with dubious professional qualifications, tolerated by him, are working at the newspaper.

Rumyana Uzunova, who arrived in Bulgaria, said that she did not know in advance about the decision of the SDS Coordinating Council to appoint her chief editor. She is concerned with the rebellion of the collective and reportedly, she does not want to express a categorical opinion about whether DEMOKRATSIYA should be the organ of the SDS Coordinating Council. Mrs. Uzunova has still not requested to be released from Radio Free Europe's [RFE] payroll, because reportedly, she is afraid to find herself falling between two chairs.

As Bulgarian Radio reported yesterday, Velichko Peychev has said in a RFE commentary that an employee of that radio station could not simultaneously hold two payroll posts, because this would affect both the RFE's interests and the independence of the Bulgarian newspaper.

If those employees who disagree with the proposed change decide to really defend their position, two variants or compromises are possible. According to them, the SDS Coordinating Council will fully and partially relinquish the changes, or, alternatively, the "divorce" which turned NARODNA MLADEZH into two newspapers, will repeat itself.

Perhaps then DEMOKRATSIYA's readers will be pleased to have two DEMOKRATSIYAs.

Comparison of Zhelev's National Assembly Address

AU1709144990

Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian on 15 September on pages one and two carries the 4,000-word "address to the Grand National Assembly by President Zhelyu Zhelev." This version has been compared with the Sofia Domestic Service version, published in the 17 September East Europe DAILY REPORT beginning on page five revealing the following variations:

Page five, column one, last paragraph, second sentence reads: By modernizing the Army, by transforming it into a contemporary, professional army, we shall consolidate its prestige, because it is well known that people who do not love or respect their own army can be easily forced to respect a foreign army. (providing alternative phrasing)

Page six, first complete paragraph, fifth sentence reads: For such an abnormal country, living under abnormal circumstances, the normal activities of parliament, with all the attributes of parliamentary activities, represent a nonallowed splendor and dangerous luxury, and this precisely evokes the populations's broad discontent with the work of the Grand National Assembly. (providing indistinct passage)

Page seven, second column, second complete paragraph, first sentence reads: Every individual member of parliament is backed by 40, 50, or 60,000 constituents, who have elected him to parliament with their votes, and hence, his deputy's immunity, his inviolability, and his right of speaking on behalf of his constituents stem from this. (providing alternative figures)

Page eight, second column, third complete paragraph, last sentence reads: This is a proposal that could be fully

implemented and I call on the leading bodies of the parliamentary factions that they should promptly form such a program commission. (providing alternative phrasing)

Zhelev Receives New Ambassadors' Credentials

AU1809135090 Sofia BTA in English 1259 GMT 18 Sep 90

["New Ambassadors of United States, Lebanon, Hungary and Ireland Present Credentials"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 18 Sep (BTA)—The president of Bulgaria, Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, today received the newly appointed ambassadors of the United States, Lebanon, Hungary and Ireland who presented their credentials to him.

The government and the people of the United States are happy to hail the freedom, democracy and respect for human rights emerging in Bulgaria, the new U.S. ambassador to Sofia, Mr. Hugh Kenneth Hill, said in his speech. He expressed the support of his country for Bulgaria's efforts to solve her economic problems which are a legacy of the past and not the heralds of the future, as Mr. Hill put it. We will join the other friendly countries and render assistance in this difficult period, the U.S. ambassador said. Mr. Hill expressed his conviction that the values both peoples appreciate are a solid basis for a closer cooperation and mutual respect.

Bulgaria attaches paramount importance to her relations with the United States which have strong historical roots, President Zhelev pointed out in his speech. He expressed Bulgaria's desire to cooperate with the United States and stressed with satisfaction the progress the two countries' relations have made in the last months. The development of our relations is notable for the growing confidence, the keying up of the level of the political dialogue and the animation in the field of economic ties, he said.

For the first time in their history, our relations are coming out on a really broad, prospect-holding position. The democratic changes in Bulgaria will contribute to it, the Bulgarian president stated.

Dr. Zhelev spoke about Bulgaria's economic difficulties which have been aggravated because of the crisis in the Persian Gulf. He reminded that the country condemned the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq and that it is strictly complying with the sanctions declared by the United Nations Security Council. The Gulf crisis convinces us in a painful way in the destabilizing character of regional conflicts and in the security small states need, Bulgaria's head of state said.

In conclusion President Zhelev assured the ambassador of the United States of America that this country will do its utmost to strengthen its cooperation with the United States.

The new ambassador of Lebanon, Mr. Walid Nasr, expressed readiness to contribute, to the best of his powers, to the further advancement of the relations between Bulgaria and Lebanon.

President Zhelev pointed out that Bulgaria will continue to work for the promotion of the traditional friendly relations with Lebanon which he appreciates highly.

The newly appointed ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to Sofia, Mr. Sandor Szabo, spoke about the democratic changes which are taking place in his country and which, in their foreign political aspect, are aimed at an all-embracing realization of his country's sovereignty. He pointed out that Hungary seeks to deepen her relations with all democratic states, paying due attention to their cultural traditions and geographical location.

This is the approach we apply to our relations with Bulgaria too; we believe they will be promoted further, Mr. Szabo said.

In reply President Zhelev dwelt on the sweeping reforms in Eastern Europe, Bulgaria and Hungary included. Our peoples made their choice in favor of democracy. Each of them is called upon to go its own road leading to catharsis and renewal, to share in the universal human values and the best achievements of human civilization. For Bulgaria this is the road of freeing herself from the burden of totalitarianism and building a democratic state committed to the rule of law in the conditions of a market economy, the president said.

Expressing this country's readiness to promote its relations with all peoples in Europe and the world on the basis of equality and mutual advantage, President Zhelev pointed out that Bulgaria and Hungary's clear-sightedness as to the world, freed from any ideological dogmas and stereotypes, and the rich cultural and historical tradition of their bilateral relations will bring up the friendship and the cooperation between them to a qualitatively new level.

President Zhelyu Zhelev also accepted the credentials of the newly appointed ambassador of the Republic of Ireland to Bulgaria, Mr. Patrick McCabe.

Daily 'Incidents,' 'Fights' at Romanian Border

AU1809074490 Sofia BTA in English 1959 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, 17 Sep (BTA correspondent)—Last night in the central news program of the Romanian Television an officer from the customs in Giurgiu (Romania) told a story of some Bulgarian militiamen taking the law in their hands and beating Romanian citizens in the station of Ruse (Bulgaria). The latter were returned to Romanian territory by force.

What is actually happening on the so called "Bridge of Friendship" that spans the Danube? There is a line of motor cars and trucks that is several kilometers long and stretches from the suburbs of Giurgiu to the border checkpoint. Another double column that is about three kilometers long begins from the Bulgarian checkpoint

and ends at the Romanian one. The Bulgarian customs officers cannot be blamed for being slow because they let pass as many vehicles as can reach Giurgiu. In this case the pace of letting the vehicles pass is dictated by the Romanian customs authorities.

It should be noted that most of the people crossing the border in the two directions are Romanians. The Bulgarians comply with the recommendation not to travel through Romanian territory until the outbreak of cholera is over. But there is no ban on the Romanian citizens' trips via Bulgaria. What is more, at the checkpoint in Ruse the Romanians swear they are transit passengers. However, having struck quick bargains in the black market in Bulgaria, they go back, declaring their cars got out of order...

It is true that there are incidents and that there are fights almost every day. It is also true that the fights do not take place in the territory of Bulgaria as it was stated on the Romanian Television, but in "no man's land" in the zone formed by the Bridge of Friendship and the highway on Romanian territory, where there are no representatives of the Romanian authorities. Rows are usually provoked by Romanian profiteers of Gypsy origin who try to be cunning and jump the long queues because their "business" cannot wait for 10 or 15 hours.

Britain's Thatcher Sees Federal, Republic Leaders

Meets Czech Premier, Chairman

LD1709132790 Prague CTK in English 1110 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 17 (CTK)—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who arrived here for an official visit yesterday at the invitation of President Vaclav Havel, had talks here this morning with chairwoman of the Czech National Council (parliament) Dagmar Buresova and Czech Premier Petr Pithart.

"We voiced the hope that the British model of pluralistic democracy with a rich tradition will be a great inspiration for us," Dagmar Buresova told CTK.

Petr Pithart said that the British prime minister precisely comprehended the situation on Czechoslovakia's political scene and pointed out that people must learn self-discipline as a prerequisite for democracy. "Mrs. Thatcher realized that we are in a situation when everybody wants to discuss matters and argue over things constantly but nobody wants to make decisions. And when somebody decides, nobody would listen," the Czech premier said in his interview for CTK.

Welcomed to Assembly by Dubcek

LD1809085690 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 0730 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Speech by Alexander Dubcek, chairman of the CSFR Federal Assembly Presidium, at joint session of the Federal Assembly—live]

[Text] Esteemed Federal Assembly, esteemed Mr. President Vaclav Havel, esteemed guests.

Today I have the opportunity to welcome an important visitor to the highest representative body of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic [CSFR]: the prime minsiter of Great Britain, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. [applause]

We know you, Mrs. Thatcher, as a politician and representative who has given all her abilities and strength to the development of her country. Your intellectual potential and the sense of concept and realism have predestined you for state political work. You are an important figure in the British Conservative Party to which you were elected leader in 1975.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher has held a number of governmental posts, and from 1979 until now, she has held the post of prime minister. In the history of Great Britain she is the first woman to hold this office and one must say with admiration that she became the first prime minister in this century to win three elections. [applause]

Mrs. Thatcher has held the office of prime minister continuously for the past 11 years. We all know how demanding and responsible this work is. We recognize and appreciate this activity of yours. We know that, in your activity and work in the interest of the people of Great Britain, in the interest of disarmament, European integration, and peace in the world, it has been necessary to take an uncompromising stand on more than one occasion, which is connected with the position that arises from the office of a prime minister.

I personally know you—as do our people—as a dear lady, an important statesman, and we feel great sympathies for you. Be cordially welcome dear Mrs. Margaret Thatcher [words indistinct due to applause]

The first visit to our country by a prime minister of your country in our history will undoubtedly put a full stop to the Munich Agreement. Relations between our two countries are friendly. We became coalition allies against Hitlerite fascism. During World War II, Great Britain became a refuge for our government in exile and for many refugees from Nazism. Our soldiers—and in the first place our airmen—found the opportunity in Great Britain to join actively in the anti fascist war.

We are following in the footsteps of these valuable traditions. Great Britain provides a number of lessons and experiences to us, who are entering a new period in the life of our republic. Many of them are very valuable to us and they will make it easier for us to seek the right course.

We want to intensify and develop our cooperation further in order to more easily overcome easier—richer through Great Britain's experiences and the support which that country extends to us—our difficulties and take our place in dignity among the advanced countries of Europe. I cordially welcome you again Dear Mrs. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and I ask you to take the floor.

Airs Views on CSFR's Future

LD1809164890 Prague CTK in English 1629 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bratislava Sept 18 (CTK)—British Prime Minister Margarget Thatcher listed three points which are essential for Czechoslovakia to join the process of European integration, during her press conference at the close of her three-day visit today.

She said that the country must join the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, become a member of the Council of Europe and negotiate an association agreement with the European Community.

Mrs. Thatcher said that in talks with Czechoslovak politicians she saw that the representatives of the country, which has recently restored democracy, now seek an "economic back-up for freedom." Britain is ready to help in training in latest technological industries and in the start-up of enterprises as well as elsewhere.

Characterizing change in the European continent she said that it will now speak "in the language of democratic Europe and the wider Europe."

She believes that the association of the countries of East Europe, in which the communist regimes "snuffed out" all individuality, with the European Community will "not be rapid" because first they must create their own market economies and this "will not be quick."

Asked about her views on the reunification of Germany she admitted the existence of a "certain amount of apprehension" as Germany will now be fairly much bigger than the other European states, and with a very powerful industrial base but "we others are not without influence." "Germany has been and will continue to be a loyal member of NATO and a full member of the European Community." Mrs. Thatcher noted that with the democratic change in the Soviet Union also the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe will be an important body in the European process.

Official Tried for Returning Soviet Asylum-Seeker

AU1709100090 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 8 Sep 90 p 1

[Jan Subert report: "He Handed Over a Soviet Soldier"]

[Text] The investigation of the strange circumstances surrounding the handing over of a Soviet soldier who requested asylum in the Office of the President on 14 April has entered into its final stage. The investigation carried out by the Federal Ministry of the Interior Inspectorate has confirmed the conclusions of our own investigation, which we published under the title "What Should Not Have Been Known" on 2 August. All clues lead to the Federal Ministry of the Interior Passport and Foreign Nationals Administration.

Yesterday our editorial staff received the following communication:

"On 7 September 1990 the investigator from the Federal Ministry of the Interior inspectorate brought criminal charges against an official from the Federal Ministry of the Interior Passport and Foreign Nationals Administration, who was charged according to Section 159 of the criminal law. As a public official, he did not, out of negligence, make sure that a hearing was held regarding asylum—according to Decree No. 1048 of 6 November 1962, issued by the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic —for the Soviet soldier A. V. Masljajev, born 22 January 1971, who, on 17 April 1990, asked for political asylum at the Office of the President. Instead, he placed the soldier in a preliminary detention cell [cela predbezneho zadrzeni] at the Municipal Administration of the Public Security Corps in Prague, and the next day—on 18 April 1990—he decided that the soldier should be handed over to the representative of the Central Group of Soviet Forces."

The defendant will face charges from the military prosecutor. Of course, we will follow subsequent developments.

Poles Discuss Exchange Rate, Border Traffic

LD1209145490 Prague CTK in English 1328 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 12 (CTK)—The exchange rate of the Czechoslovak crown to the Polish zloty should be changed to reflect the real situation but no agreement has been reached on what the rate should be.

This is the gist of the results of a session of the Czechoslovak-Polish Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technological Cooperation here announced to journalists by Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus and Polish Deputy Premier Jan Janowski, co-chairman of the body.

The Czechoslovak side proposes an immediate rise in the rate to 280-300 zlotys to the crown, from the present roughly 220. The Polish side rejects this, calling it "administrative" and suggesting that the rate should be formed gradually on the basis of supply and demand.

By October 20, a group of experts should propose the principles for cross-border traffic that Czechoslovakia is prepared to reopen on November 1. The border between the two countries has been closed for traffic with the exception of specified cases and even President Havel joined a demonstration a fortnight ago to protest against what has been described as an anachronism after the fall of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall.

The Polish side said it was fully aware of the problems the reopening of the border would cause to Czechoslovakia but considers them "marginal."

The Czechoslovak-Polish committee dealt with trade between the two countries and agreed on operations that would enable them to enter next year with balanced payments. Other topics were transport, communications, and environmental protection, including the Polish agreement to postpone talks on Polish claims to compensation of the pollution of the Oder in 1986 and the construction of a coking plant in north Moravia until after the Czechoslovak Government has discussed the overall Czechoslovak energy program at the end of this year.

Havel's Initiative on Polish Border Criticized

AU1309151690 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 8 Sep 90 p 2

[Igor Cibula commentary: "Disregarding the Circumstances"]

[Text] The constitutional faux pas made by Vaclav Havel when appointing Marian Calfa's Federal Government—which had to resign in order to be immediately reappointed—was accepted by the public with forbearance, considering the circumstances surrounding the constituent meeting of the Federal Assembly. The journalists' criticism was addressed toward presidential advisers, yet the experience of recent days indicates that they did not take this criticism too seriously. Otherwise two draft laws which were presented to the Federal

Assembly Presidium last week would be inexplicable. They pertained to the establishment of the Counselor as a head of the Presidential Office and changing the name of the Administration of the Protection of the President to Castle Police. The inappropriateness of such a procedure ensues from the fact that the Federal Assembly Presidium adopts legal measures in urgent cases, yet the two above mentioned proposals can hardly be considered as such. Moreover, it is necessary to add that the president's impatience was unnecessary, since a week later a joint meeting of both chambers would be held, at which his proposals could be approved after a discussion in parliamentary committees.

The citizens do not react to such "blunders" by Vaclav Havel, as they do not have an immediate bearing on their everyday interests. It is something else, however, if the president of the republic encourages the abolishment of existing restrictions on travel of the citizens of Poland and Czechoslovakia, that is, what happened at Pomezni boudy [huts] on Sunday [2 September], where Havel's decision to remove the last remnants of "iron curtain" on our borders was supported by Jiri Dienstbier, deputy premier and foreign minister. In contrast to such an approach, by introducing visa obligations, the Austrian Government made the travel of Polish citizens more restricted in order to protect the interests of Austrian citizens. In our country, the development went in the opposite direction, as if the Czechoslovak economy would be able to cope with the raids of Polish middlemen more successfully than the Austrian economy and social infrastructure, to which we cannot compare ourselves, certainly.

Havel's initiatives mentioned above—in parliament as well as the one supposed to demonstrate how capable we are of opening ourselves to Europe—appear to political observers as a sign that the president, in some cases, ignores the circumstances. When the waves of Polish "tourists" start to "massage" our retail network, for example in northern regions, the citizens will begin to ponder to whom they owe for such a favor—and they may express their opinions during the local elections in the fall. It is not difficult to guess to whom the votes that were dissatisfied with this presidential step will go.

Slovene Leader Holds Talk With CSFR Officials

AU1709182290 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Lojze Peterle, president of the Slovene Government, who is visiting Prague, has offered to the Czech Republic and Slovakia closer cooperation with Slovenia since, as he said. Yugoslavia is disintegrating.

According to the statements made by Peterle and his host, Antonin Baudys, Czech vice premier, the two sides will focus their attention on economic cooperation between the Czech Republic and Slovenia.

In his statement to the CTK Agency, Peterle said that the national question had not been resolved in Yugoslavia and that attempts are now being made to provide people with real democracy so that they could voluntarily agree on the way they want to live in a joint state. There are different views. Some people want a federation, others want a confederation, said Peterle adding that some people were again killed in Kosovo.

Calfa Receives Italian Industrialist for Talks

LD1209173290 Prague CTK in English 1507 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 12 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa received here today president of the Italian Finmeccanica concern Fabiano Fabiani in connection with the Italian guest's discussions with Czechoslovak industry representatives.

Fabiano Fabiana spoke of his talks in the Skoda Plzen enterprise in West Bohemia and said that there is a prospect of cooperation with the Iri firm (part of Finmeccanica) not only in the production of locomotoves but in overall construction of Czechoslovak railways.

It is necessary to gain useful contacts in the world and therefore Iri offered to Czechoslovak partners courses for managing workers of the Skoda enterprise, Fabiano Fabiani said.

Marian Calfa dealt with the aggravating situation in oil imports and said that Czechoslovakia will have to find other energy sources. Iri representatives offered cooperation also in the sphere of nuclear energy.

Italian Ambassador, Minister Langos on Orfei Case

AU1309145690 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 8 Sep 90 p 2

[Marcela Pechackova report: "Italians Are Silent"]

[Text] As we already have reported, one of the possible ways that the mysterious 500-page file describing, among other things, cooperation between our spy and Italian political scientist Ruggero Orfei could get out of Czechoslovakia, is through diplomatic channels. Approximately a week ago, we contacted the Italian Embassy in Prague and asked the ambassador for an interview. He refused, without listening to our questions. Nevertheless, later on, his secretariat announced that the ambassador would like to hear the questions anyway. We asked the following questions:

1. Do you think, Mr. Ambassador, that the file compromising a number of Italian citizens could have been delivered to Italy through our embassy?

2. In one of its articles, MLADA FRONTA reported that in the past the Italian Embassy had financed its overhead from means acquired with foreign currencies on the black market. Do you want to say anything about that?

3. What importance do you believe the Orfei case has?

4. Do you admit that some officials from the Italian Embassy in Prague cooperated with the State Security Corps?

The secretary handed the questions to the ambassador and then delivered a message from the ambassador that he was not authorized to answer such questions. We gave our thanks to the highest representative of the Italian Republic in Czechoslovakia.

This week we also met Jan Langos, federal interior minister, for a short talk about the Orfei case. The minister told us that the investigation concentrated on finding out whether the "file" had left our Republic before or after 17 November. The minister said that he did not consider this case very important and that the investigation had not progressed far enough that the press could be provided with information on it. He also said that, during the investigation, the Italian side did not ask for cooperation.

For the sake of refreshing our memory, we remind you that the "discovery" of cooperation with our spy fit well with the plans of the right wing of the Italian Christian Democratic Party. Maybe just for that reason, the former interior minister, a member of the People's Party who subscribes to its conservatism publicly, was suspected (by Italian journalists) of giving the documents away. Richard Sacher, as well as Josef Bartoncik, denied this suspicion. Confidence in the Ministry of the Interior was not boosted much by its inability to discover who stole such voluminous files. To be content with finding out whether it happened before 17 November would probably be to take the bait. Minister Langos was unable to answer the questions connected with the Orfei case either on Thursday [6 September] or to the deputies of the parliamentary Defense and Security Committee.

Talks Held With Austrian Labor Minister

LD1509165490 Prague CTK in English 1439 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 15 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak, Czech, Slovak and Austrian ministers of labour and social affairs met in Mikulov, South Moravia, today to discuss cooperation and an international agreement that would settle the social position of Czechoslovak citizens living in Austria.

Ministers Petr Miller of Czechoslovakia, Czech minister Milan Horalek, Slovak Minister Stanislav Novak and Austrian Minister Walter Geppert will consider possibilities of exchanging workers and a Czechoslovak initiative to call an informal all-European meeting of labour ministers on the migration of manpower.

The meeting follows up previous meetings of the labour ministers of the two countries at Gmund, Austria, and Trebon, South Bohemia.

Membership in IMF, World Bank Approved

LD1309175490 Prague CTK in English 1530 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 13 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) approved today Czechoslovakia's membership of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and other international organizations.

Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus announced last week that the country would join these institutions on September 20 when he would sign the appropriate documents in Washington.

In today's address before the parliament he recalled that Czechoslovakia assisted in the birth of the IMF in 1944 and the end of its membership ten years later had a negative effect on Czechoslovak economic development. The country's return to these institutions will enable it to participate fully in the international financial system.

During a debate of the proposed membership in parliamentary committees last week Deputy Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik said that Czechoslovakia's IMF quota would be equivalent roughly to 712 million dollars, 22.7 per cent of it in foreign currency and the rest, about 10,000 million crowns, in the national currency.

The other institutions that Czechoslovakia is to joint under today's parliament approval are the international finance corporation, the multilateral investment guarantee agency and the international development association.

Views on Success of World Economic Meeting

AU1309202690 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 8 Sep 90 p 1

["(KZ)"-signed report: "Apropos the Possibilities for Cooperation"]

[Text] The World Economic Forum meeting continued in Kolodeje Castle yesterday. Divided into working groups according to their specialist orientation, Czechoslovak and foreign experts discussed issues associated with the development of foreign trade, industry, the power industry, and services.

The aim of this undoubtedly representative event was to present Czechoslovakia to representatives of important foreign enterprises and financial circles via its political and economic representatives. As J. Jaks, dean of the business faculty at the Economics College in Prague, informed us at an impromptu news conference, the meeting's participants listened with great interest to the speeches made by our representatives—J. Cerny, Czechoslovak People's Party secretary general, was among them—and, at the same time, became aware of the complexity of the path along which we are going toward a market economy. A number of our fellow countrymen were among the foreign guests. At a meeting with them, the main issue was not for them to offer us handouts, but for them to advise us on how to become rich.

K. Tucek, director general of the Investment Bank in Prague, provided us with somewhat more skeptical information. Among other things, he said that a number of his foreign colleagues were not too enthusiastic about the information they acquired here. They were puzzled in particular by the slow creation of conditions for foreign investments.

President V. Havel came to greet participants at the end of the World Economic Forum meeting. We are unable to publish his speech because the organizers refused to allow the LIDOVE NOVINY editor and the CTK correspondent into the hall where the meeting was taking place.

Further Reportage on Piestany Meetings

Czech, Slovak Governments Meet

AU1709125490 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 11 Sep 90 p 1

["chk"-signed report: Difficult Rebirth of the Federation"]

[Text] Yesterday, shortly after noon, a two-day meeting of the Governments of the Slovak and of the Czech Republic began in Piestany. According to the agenda, it is a sequel to the Trencianske Teplice session, which took place in the middle of August this year. In addition to the partners of both national republics Petr Pithart and Vladimir Meciar, and some government ministers, Jozef Miklosko and Pavel Rychetsky, deputy premiers of the Federal Government, are attending the meeting. The arrival in Piestany of Marian Calfa, premier of the government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, is expected today.

It is the first meeting of the entire governments of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic which were appointed after the June parliamentary elections. Beside the joint sessions of both governments, the Slovak and Czech ministers met with their counterparts in separate meetings.

The most important point on the agenda of the Piestany meeting is a further development of the conclusions arrived at in the August Trencianske Teplice meeting. Both partners briefly met with journalists prior to the opening of the session. Vladimir Meciar emphasized that "the activities, which are economic in their character, have no place on the federal level." He stressed the conviction repeated many times in Bratislava recently that national republics will entrust into the jurisdiction of the Federal Government only that which they consider necessary. Furthermore, he recalled the most important conclusion from Trencianske Teplice, which will also serve as a point of departure in Piestany, namely, the decision of both parties to live in a common state.

On settling the matter of the name and position of the Ministry of International Relations of the Slovak Republic, Vladimir Meciar said that further proceedings in that matter will depend on the meetings with the deputy premier of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and with Jiri Dienstbier, minister of foreign affairs. In other words, a certain change will occur in the name of the Ministry of International Relations of the Slovak Republic, while the content of its activities will remain the same.

Petr Pithart emphasized in his statement for the media that in Piestany the time will no longer be lost by discussing what will be done and why, but the debate will focus on how it will be done. He expressed the opinion that a certain positive shift took place in the relation to the changes in the content of the federation to be discussed. He said that nationalism transpires in both parts of the state. He described the Slovak nationalism as the more traditional one, and the Czech nationalism as the offended and paternalistic one. Both premiers agreed that, as opposed to the Trencianske Teplice meeting, in Piestany, there is something to be said already prior to the meeting. They described the conclusion at which they arrived, namely, that the republics are the basis of the federation, as the kernel of the jointly adopted philosophy for further action.

Asked by our correspondent about the climate in which the governments met in Piestany, Ladislav Kosta, minister of justice of the Slovak Republic, described the atmosphere as excellent. "There are only a few things which divide us, and there are many of those which join us," he stressed.

Premiers Discuss Outcome

AU1709125390 Prague HOSPODARKSE NOVINY in Slovak 12 Sep 90 pp 1, 4

["(CHK)"-signed report: "A Common Course of Action Has Been Confirmed"]

[Text] The two-day working meeting involving members of the Czech and Slovak Governments—which was also attended by Jozef Miklosko and Pavel Rychetsky, federal deputy premiers—came to an end in Piestany yesterday. Marian Calfa, CSFR premier, took part in the meeting on Tuesday [11 September]. The meeting confirmed a further common course of action; a decisive step had been taken toward this during the previous round of talks at Trencianske Teplice. This was also underlined during an afternoon news conference at the end of the working meeting.

Marian Calfa, Petr Pithart, and Vladimir Meciar replied to journalists' questions. They emphasized that the issue at Piestany involved taking stock of the work of the 10 expert commissions which are preparing specific proposals for the new functioning of the federation. The commissions' work should be completed by 20 September. The results of their work were regarded as pleasing despite the fact that some issues have not yet been completely clarified. A proposal was made at the meeting to establish an eleventh commission which should deal with jurisdiction within the framework of the federal and republican interior ministries.

In his opening statement Petr Pithart said that all three premiers met in the Tatra Mountains last weekend. This meeting should have contributed toward making sure that as few open problems as possible cropped up in Piestany. In this connection, he stated that the talks in Piestany proceeded from an already given concept. A characteristic trait of the governments' meeting was a businesslike approach toward resolving those problems which appeared to be straightforward. In this connection, Marian Calfa referred to a report on railroad transportation, the taxation system, and some issues associated with controlling communications. Control of metallurgy, fuel branches, and the power industry—for which it is assumed a supranational coordinating center will be established—is envisaged at the republican level. Vladimir Meciar underlined the necessity of getting rid of all categories of joint national and federal jurisdiction in the future, categories which have to date been a source of permanent problems.

The point of view that the endeavors to transform the federation involve a struggle of Czechs against Slovaks or Slovaks against Czechs was rejected as incorrect. It was emphasized that the issue involved a search for a new quality in the functioning of the republics and federation which should correspond to the needs of our accelerated approach toward economic reform. The issue also involves adding a new quality to the governing systems.

Petr Pithart also stated that the governments are jointly striving to ensure that the problems are dealt with in the best manner possible. He stated that jealous and nationalistic points of view serve no purpose in this matter. He also said that it does not matter who says or proposes something first at the meeting. He stressed that these working meetings have to take place without hastiness, impatience, and nervousness or the premiers themselves could be very much harmed by relations between our nations. Apropos the final word which the legislative organs will have in issues connected with the federation's new contents, Vladimir Meciar stated that the deputies are free people who are expected to place the interests of the whole federation before their own subjective feelings and views.

The opinions and points of view expressed by the premiers at the news conference correspond to the contents of the communique adopted at the end of the Piestany meeting.

Communique From Meeting

AU1709125690 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 12 Sep 90 p 2

["Communique From the Joint Meeting Involving the Czech Republic Government, the Slovak Republic Government, and Representatives of the CSFR Government Held in Piestany on 10 and 11 September 1990"]

[Text] On 10 and 11 September 1990 the Czech Republic Government and the Slovak Republic Government, with the participation of CSFR Premier Marian Calfa and Federal Deputy Premiers Pavel Rychetsky and Jozef Miklosko, held a joint meeting in Piestany. Jiri Krizan, a representative of the Office of the President, also participated in the meeting. The session began with special bilateral meetings involving ministers from both governments. At the subsequent joint meeting, Frantisek Vlasak, Czech deputy premier, gave a report on the course of the work undertaken by the 10 expert commissions established to elaborate and specify the proposals made at Trencianske Teplice concerning the individual spheres of the division of the governments' jurisdiction. The work of the commissions is still continuing and a final solution to some contentious issues will be influenced by the start of the implementation of economic reform.

Pavel Rychetsky briefed both governments on the progress being made in legislative work and demanded close cooperation from them in accelerating these processes. The governments committed themselves to substantially shortening the deadline on debating the appropriate proposals. Following an extensive discussion about the report on the work on the constitutional laws, both governments agreed on a joint chronological and businesslike course of action in compiling the draft for a federal constitution and a uniform basis for the national republics' constitution. This will then be supplemented with national specifications. To this effect, they will submit a proposal to the representative bodies.

The meeting's participants also agreed that the drafting and approval of the constitutions will be preceded by the adoption of a charter on human rights and freedoms on 17 November by which our federation will acknowledge all the agreements that have already been signed in this sphere.

Petr Pithart, Czech Republic premier, put forward a plan for regular meetings between the representatives of both national cultures and communities. Vladimir Meciar, Slovak Republic premier, briefed the Czech Government on attitudes toward the Hungarian ethnic minority and the law on a state language. Jozef Miklosko informed the meeting's participants about the state of work in dealing with the property belonging to political parties and social organizations.

Both governments agreed on the need for a substantially better flow of mutual information about the governments' work as well as for a bilateral flow of information between the inhabitants of both republics. They set their premiers the task of submitting a proposal for dealing with the intolerable situation in newspaper and magazine distribution in both republics.

The meeting in Piestany has indicated that it is necessary to continue with these, already traditional, meetings between both governments because they contribute toward mutual understanding and the enrichment of ideas. On this occasion Premier Marian Calfa proposed that a joint meeting involving all three governments take place in Kromeriz at the end of September where the

progress of work on the planning and implementation of so-called small scale privatization will be discussed. Its joint approval by all three governments at once will accelerate the implementation of the plan which will mean a real start on the road to a market economy.

Calfa on Government Role in Piestany

AU1809093890 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 12 Sep 90 p 8

[Interview with Marian Calfa, CSFR prime minister, by Jiri Zavozda; place and date not given: "An Interview With Marian Calfa"]

[Text] [Zavozda] What was the Federal Government's position at the Piestany talks? Was it active, or was the government an observer?

[Calfa] The fact that the two national governments and the Federal Government held a meeting does not mean that two governments negotiated with each other and the third one listened. The issue simply involved an open exchange of views. In some of our statements we even influenced the points of view. The discussions were absolutely frank and equal and no one asked whose position lies where.

[Zavozda] The establishment of a new working commission to deal with the security problem was an important point on the agenda. However, we did not see Minister Jan Langos at the meeting.

[Calfa] The fact that we did not envisage that the security problem would be resolved does not mean anything at all. Otherwise Minister Langos would, understandably, have been here.

Officials of Three Governments Meet in Prague

LD1409222390 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Leading officials of the Office of the President of the Republic, the Federal Assembly, Czech and Slovak National Council, and the offices of the three governments held a joint meeting in Prague today. The meeting followed up, as far as its agenda was concerned, on the joint meeting of the three governments in Trencianske, Teplice and Piestany. The participants concerned themselves with the activity of central bodies, especially with topical problems of improving their apparatus in the professional and personnel fields, and with the preparation of the amendment of the law on civil service.

Havel on Administrative Structure, Crime Rate

LD1609142790

[Editorial report] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1215 GMT on 16 September carries its regular "Conversational at Lany" program in which President Vaclav Havel is interviewed for 22 minutes by station editor Jiri Vejvoda.

Vejvoda begins the program by describing how he traveled on Friday with President Havel in a plane from Bratislava to Prague, and asks the president about his impressions from flying. Havel points out what a different, thought- provoking view of localities and countries is gained from above. He goes on to recall his previous "Conversations in Lany" when he spoke about the need to abolish district national committees before the upcoming communal elections. Since then he has read the law on villages and local administration approved by deputies of the Czech National Council, and discovered, to his disappointment, that the past administrative structure, including Prague district national committees, has been preserved for the next four years. He points out that changing the administrative structure would be rather difficult after the elections and suggests that the best solution could be for the Czech National Council to amend the law before the communal elections. Havel argues that the most logical way is to build a two-level structure of administrative bodies in big towns, the first level consisting of the administrative bodies set up according to the system of individual historical villages of which these towns are composed, the second one being the representative body of the whole town.

Asked about the rising crime rate in Czechoslovakia, Havel points out how naive it is to blame it all on the amnesty, and explains that history has shown that the number of crimes always rises whenever a totalitarian regime is abolished, giving as an example the situation in Spain after the end of the Franco regime. Nevertheless, Havel stresses it is a serious threat, and in his view the ministries of interior should speedily take strict measures. There is a need to strengthen the police authority as well as increase its numbers, Havel goes on to point out that the range of increasing crimes includes not only robbery, but also plundering of churches.

Vejvoda asks Havel to sum up the results of Mitterrand's visit. Havel admits that when inviting both Mitterrand and Thatcher for a visit, he had on his mind putting some sort of full stop to the Munich Agreement, a full stop to a rather unfortunate chapter in relations between Czechoslovakia and both Britain and France.

Nevertheless, the significance of Mitterrand's visit was much wider, above all, in the field of cooperation. Havel especially appreciates Mitterrand's proposal for a meeting of the heads of states to discuss some sort of future European confederation, to take place in Prague. He goes on to note that the ministers of foreign affairs agreed to establish working commissions to prepare such a conference and will probably meet in Prague in spring for talks on this issue.

Answering Vejvoda's question about his talks with Lithuanian Premier Prunskiene on Friday, Havel notes that this was not only a pleasant but also an important meeting, which dealt with the situation in the USSR and the Baltic republics.

Speaking about his recent meeting with representatives of the Czech scouts, Havel points out that the idea of scouting is based on important principles of friendship, cooperation between people, and respect for nature. He stresses how much the scout and similar movements are needed in Czechoslovakia now.

At the conclusion of the interview, the studio announcer says it was shorter than usual because Havel gave a press conference on Friday. She went on to announce that Havel will deliver an important speech at the Federal Assembly tomorrow, which will be broadcast live by Czechoslovak Radio.

Havel Urges Continuation of Civic Forum

LD1509191890 Prague CTK in English 1818 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 15 (CTK)—President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia said here today that the Civic Forum must enter the local elections, due on November 24, as well as the parliamentary elections in 1992 as a political force and thus must exist for at least two more years.

Addressing a republic assembly of the Civic Forum, the political movement of opponents of the former communist regime which led the drive for democratic changes, Havel said he did not intend to interfere in the meeting, that he attended it as a person who stood at the birth of the movement. He recalled that the name "Forum" meant that the movement gave scope for a peaceful exchange of views among those who resisted totalitarian rule. He said he expected it would be a temporary formation as it would later on have problems with its own identity, such as, for instance, the Polish Solidarity has today, and there he proved to be mistaken.

The Civic Forum still bears the heritage of the revolutionary atmosphere when bodies and powers were not defined but this was both an advantage but also a disadvantage, he said, and added that it now seems as if "we were encountering some obscurity or incomprehensibility of the Civic Forum". He said he realized that the Forum lacks firmer political leadership.

Havel called for closest possible relations between the Forum and those delegated to government posts for the sake of good cooperation. Referring to the coming local elections he said the principle of personalities and not parties should prevail in them. It would not be good to seek that the Civic Forum wins the elections as a party but that the right people are elected to the local administration bodies.

The assembly was attended by Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, Czech Premier Petr Pithart and other officials.

Deputies Discuss Havel Speech to Assembly

LD1709215290 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Vaclav Havel, president of the republic, addressed the sixth joint session of the two chambers of the Federal Assembly in Prague today. [passage omitted]

In the subsequent discussion about the blueprint for economic reform, the deputies took various and often conflicting stances.

After a wide-ranging discussion, they approved a resolution which said that the blueprint represents a specific expression of the government statement and that it is a rational project for how to tackle complicated problems of our economy. It stresses that the present government has to tackle the problems caused by the governments of the communist regime, and that the majority of the difficulties we face are accompanying phenomena of the correction of this situation.

The deputies recommended that Federal Government use in the sphere of privatization all apropriate privatization processes, and called on it to complete the work of forming the social consequences of economic reform into a comprehensive system. At the same time they asked the Federal Government to keep in the course of economic reform, a constant dialogue with the economic committees of the parliament and permanently cooperate with the governments of the two national republics.

Calfa on Division of Jurisdiction Between Republics

AU1809094590 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 12 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Alena Melicharkova report: "Searching for a New Quality"]

[Excerpt] Piestany—Yesterday Marian Calfa, federal premier, participated in the second day of talks between the Czech Government, led by Premier Petr Pithart, and the Slovak Government, led by Premier Vladimir Meciar.

During a break in the working session, the federal premier had to face a barrage of often intrusive questions from journalists. In his replies he stated that the federation had assigned certain things to the republics and those things that had been blessed at a federal level were untouchable. "We are striving for a change in quality in all spheres of life. We also have to strive for such a change in quality in the constitutional arrangement sphere and in understanding the federation and the completely new relationship between the federation and the republics. This should be a relationship where the republics are the sovereign lords over their territories and where the federation is an integral element of our statehood because the republics need this element in implementing their work," said Premier Marian Calfa.

He also expressed his opinion about the atmosphere at the talks which preceded the weekend discussions

involving all three premiers. He emphasized that when issues are being discussed, from time to time the conclusion is reached that everyone is talking about the same thing, that they have the same ideas, and that only a different vocabulary is being used. "We are here to clarify the issues," said the CSFR premier. He described the governments' discussions as constructive.

NARODNA OBRODA asked Premier Marian Calfa how he visualized his government following the culmination of the process of dividing jurisdiction.

He replied: "I reacted openly at the conclusion of the work carried out by the working groups; their task was to consider the division of competency between the federation and the republics. If we proceed from the premise that a certain area of jurisdiction will really belong to the republic and will be its affair and that the federation's area of jurisdiction will be its affair, then, it is up to the federation what organs it establishes in order to ensure the implementation of this jurisdiction. This is not a matter for agreement." From another discussion it became obvious that there is still no clear idea about this and that the existence of departments at a federal level will be decided by the Federal Government. According to Premier Calfa, particular attention will be paid to the rationality of this work. Apropos the Slovak Republic Government's recent proposal to abolish the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade and to divide its jurisdiction between the republics and between the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Ministry of the Economy, he stated that foreign trade policy will remain at the federal level along with the customs service; a single customs region is the only one that can be considered. The licensing system will also remain at the federal level. [passage omitted]

Calfa on Civic Forum, VPN Relations

AU1709100790 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 10 Sep 90 p 4

[Interview with Marian Calfa, CSFR premier, by Peter Duhan; place and date not given: "Institutionalizing Relations Between the Victorious Movements"]

[Text] My interview with the federal premier was not one of those typically official and formal interviews which is usually preceded by an agreement about the framework of the questions and the nature of the replies. It is not normally the custom for the interviewer and interviewee to have lunch during the interview. The interview was an informal discussion and I was able to become acquainted with the more personal and more down to earth side of the federal premier.

[Duhan] At the moment it is not worth evaluating the course of the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement assembly. It is also premature to speculate about how the elections to the VPN Slovak Council will turn out and about who will become its chairman. However, one thing is certain, no matter which of the possible candidates wins, he will become the leader of the most important political movement in Slovakia. In your opinion, what should this person be noted for and what will his role on Slovakia's complicated scene be?

[Calfa] I will begin differently than you expect. In the democratic world it is normal that each political force has its own idea about policy. This is implemented through the medium of state power. The aim of every party is to win the elections and to then occupy the key positions of state power. In a normally functioning state system it is natural that the leader of the victorious political party becomes the head of state power and head of the executive. However, this does not apply under our conditions. An atypical system has developed. Its substance lies in the development of unclarified relations between the leadership of the political force and the leadership of the state, relations which are not identical. Why am I talking about this? In democratic countries the head of state is also the head of the victorious party or movement.

This is normal and democratic. Other elections are held and in the majority of cases there is a change in the state's leadership because another party will begin to implement its idea of policy. The question is how much do current conditions in Czechoslovakia differ from those in other countries and what are our prospects for falling into line with the political systems I have been talking about. We are now in a situation in which there is no inspiring model or example for us. This only means that we have created our own specific Czechoslovak model and, therefore, that we have to seek our own corresponding solution. I see a solution in an agreement being reached between the political leadership and the state leadership. However, this envisages that the representatives of the political leadership have to be the partners of the representatives of the state leadership. I would emphasize that they have to be worthy partners and must be up to the tasks which government representatives deal with.

Now to the substance of your question. If I may summarize what I said previously, the leader of a political movement or party under our conditions must be a person who is sufficiently capable of distinguishing between the problems which state power has to deal with as well as of foreseeing the ways political aims will be transformed into state power deeds. At the same time, he must know how to present the state power's policy. Not only in relation to state power itself, but also in relation to the voters and, naturally, also in relation to equivalent political partners abroad. In short, my idea of a leader is such that he must be a person of extraordinary quality.

[Duhan] How should cooperation between the Civic Forum and the VPN be formulated in the future?

[Calfa] Despite the differences in the Czech and Slovak Republics, absolute collaboration between both movements is essential. I even consider it to be vitally important. I see two paths, an informal one and a formal one. The informal one lies in the constant intensification of

mutual contacts and in a lasting contact on all levels. I would add that this means daily contacts. This is a key element of my idea of collaboration between both movements. This association should also be expressed formally. I think it could be guaranteed institutionally. I am not relying on there always being enough time and good will to discuss the key elements of policy in a casual, friendly, and informal manner. I see prospects in the institutional interlinking of both movements' leaderships. This would create a basis for fundamentally dealing with the federation's main problems before the government begins to deal with them and even before the mass media begins to consider these problems in its own way.

[Duhan] If I understand you properly, you actually wanted to say that the Civic Forum and the VPN are the only real political force which can stabilize the federation....?

[Calfa] Who else, in your opinion, could do this?

People's Party General Secretary Interviewed

AU1309120390

[Editorial Report] Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 10 September, page 4, under the headline "Observing the Law Even in Politics," publishes a 1,750-word interview with Dr. Jiri Cerny, general secretary of the Czechoslovak People's Party [CSSL], by Kamila Jaskova, RUDE PRAVO correspondent. The place and date of the interview are not given. Asked for his reaction to the fact that the party is not represented in the government, Cerny says that the CSSL refused the offer of a seat in the Federal Government because its Central Committee decided to assume the role of the opposition. He stresses, however, that before former CSFR Interior Minister of the People's Party, Dr. Sacher, resigned, he was consistently non-partisan in his function, and he hopes that the new Federal Minister of Interior "will guarantee lawfulness and the building of a state based on the rule of law." Asked about the connection between the party and the Extraparliamentary Assembly, Cerny replies that the CSSL entered the Assembly as an observer and he personally welcomes this institution because, according to him, the entire political spectrum should participate in the formulation of state policies.

Asked for his personal view of the Bartoncik affair," Cerny objects to this formulation, saying that "It is a Jan Ruml, Dr. Rychetsky, and perhaps some others affair." He recalls that the Federal Assembly was supposed to deal with "this libel," but the Czech National Council Presidium made its statement and thereby effectively closed the case. He hopes, he says, that justice will prevail in the proceedings the party has initiated against the aforementioned persons. The recent resolution by the Prosecutor General's Office, however, has shaken the party's trust. He emphasizes, that it is irrelevant who was accused, but "particularly in politics, it is extremely important that legal norms are honored." He admits that the affair influenced the party membership and that they probably lost about 10 percent of their voters. On the other hand, he says, a party that wishes to influence political life in the entire country must be strong enough to bear such a burden.

Asked about the current situation in the coalition, Cerny explains that, although it was originally formed as an election coalition, all partners wish to remain in it and to improve their collaboration. He emphasizes the support for the private entrepreneurs. Further, he speaks about the point of departure for the party, namely, "the principles and hierarchy of values characteristic of Christianity," and he defines the party's orientation as "toward all people of good will," that is, not only toward Catholics; "The CSSL is a party of Christians."

In response to an inquiry about the differences within the party leadership, Cerny says that different opinions are welcome, for they offer a variety of approaches to problems and enable a better selection.

Asked about the abortion issue, Cerny says he is unequivocally "pro life."

Asked about the current protests of the LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE editorial staff at alleged interference by the party leadership, Cerny says that he has already expressed his opinion on this. He objects to "confusing concepts and misapplying terms like independence and freedom of the press to hide the lack of work discipline and basically anarchistic understanding of democracy."

Communist Official Claims Human Rights Violations

LD1209193790 Prague CTK in English 1703 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 12 (CTK)—Leading representative of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Jiri Machalik today addressed a letter to chairman of the International Human Rights Helsinki Federation Karel Schwarzenberk voicing deep concern over the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Czechoslovakia.

He said that observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms has been violated by the legislative measure of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) Presidium of August 30, 1990, expanding the range of leading posts filled by appointment. The measure was taken on the initiative of the Civic Forum which had been critical of the fact that positions are still held in Czechoslovak offices and enterprises by representatives of Communist structures forming mafias supporting one another.

Machalik says in the letter that the same government whose representatives agreed with the document adopted at the Copenhagen session of the CSCE conference on human dimension proposed to the parliament presidium to take the legislative measure without delay.

This step is aimed, according to public statements made by responsible Czechoslovak constitutional officials and some political representatives, at quick dismissals or

transfer to lower-paid posts of a wide range of people for their political conviction, Machalik stressed in his letter.

Interior Ministry Official Charged in Asylum Case

LD1309143890 Prague CTK in English 1125 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 13 (CTK)—Director of the Czechoslovak Interior Ministry inspection Igor Ivanov told CTK that a worker of the ministry's Passport and Aliens' Registration Office grossly violated legal norms in the case of Soviet soldier Aleksandr Maslyavev who asked for political asylum in Czechoslovakia.

Had the Interior Ministry's worker acted in tune with Article 33 of the Czechoslovak Constitution embedding the right to grant political asylum, everything would have been in order. The soldier was to be taken care of by the Czechoslovak Red Cross until his application was cleared. Instead, he was placed in the cell of preliminary detention. Later, he left for home.

Now, according to reports from the Soviet Union, Maslyavev claims he had never asked for political asylum in Czechoslovakia. However, Igor Ivanov said, his request is documented at the Czechoslovak Interior Ministry.

The ministry's worker has been charged in addition to violation of legal norms also with the criminal offence of frustrating the tasks of a public official for ignorance. If found guilty, he may face a one-year sentence, or a corrective measure or he may be banned from the exercise of his post.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Reorganization

AU1709084290 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 8 Sep 90 p 6

[Interview with CSFR Interior Minister Jan Langos by Vladimir Mlynar and Jan Dobrovsky, LIDOVE NOVINY correspondents; place and date not given: "The Concept and Time Will Decide": first paragraph is LIDOVE NOVINY introduction]

[Text] Numerous, often viciously phrased questions addressed to the federal minister of interior appeared in the press recently. We, therefore, asked Jan Langos for an interview.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Mr. Minister, the public knows you only from the television screen or a few newspaper photographs, and thus they know about you only what is contained in the biographies published in the papers. You were one of the few Slovak dissidents. What did you do before last November?

[Langos] I was on the editorial staff of samizdat journals without religious orientation. Among them were, for instance, the journal K and the simultaneously distributed FRAGMENT, both edited by Oleg Pastier. These journals eventually combined into one—FRAGMENT "K". Prior to FRAGMENT "K", a friend and I had produced four issues of a journal ALTAMIRA and, sometime in 1988, I began to bring out BRATISLAVSKE LISTY with Jan Carnogursky. Having graduated from the Bratislava Technical University with a major in semiconductor physics, I was employed at the Academy of Sciences as a physicist and computer technologist. I was lucky, although I went through some interrogations, I have never been jailed, and, thanks to my boss, I was not even fired from my job.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Like your predecessor, you are a Catholic. While in the function of the minister of interior, Richard Sacher significantly politicized his faith. Are you in danger of something similar?

[Langos] No. Political Catholicism is alien to me because it has very little to do with the Catholic faith. Political goals and faith do not mix well.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You inherited a ministry which is not only the most problem-loaded one from the point of the ability to implement reforms, but is also the center of attention of both journalists and citizens. What about that?

[Langos] I got into a situation in which orientation is very difficult. Individual departments of the ministry and their mutual relations are in very bad shape. Lack of expertise and qualifications, inability to work independently, incomprehensible relations between the coworkers—of course, all that is a result of the deformation in the time when all the employees worked like machines. Under the former regime, everything was decided by orders, edicts, and decrees, and people did not think about their content. They are now facing a new situation with which they are incapable of dealing either as professionals or as people. Some uncertainty, concerns, and by some, perhaps even a hatred for the new system also play some role. I believe that the concept and time will decide.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] This is of course directly connected with the continually topical issue of evaluating the State Security members. It is rumored that some individuals, and even entire departments, were excluded from the evaluation. Could you explain the situation surrounding the screening and tell us who is responsible for such decisions?

[Langos] All the commanders in the rapid deployment unit about which we are talking were screened and, at the same time, the crew was composed so as not to include anyone who interfered in the Narodni trida [brutal attack on students in November 1989 revolution]. The Passport and Visa Administration was originally excluded, later, the management and those who served in other State Security branches were screened. That continued to happen under Minister Sacher. I do not know whether he exempted anyone from the screening individually, but only completely irreproachable and qualified people will be given that chance in the framework of the further reorganization of the ministry.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What was behind the letter, published recently in MLADA FRONTA, which you were sending to the dismissed State Security members? You politely apologized in it to the addressees for a legal error and asked them to return to the ministry. Does it mean that the dismissed are being taken back with an apology?

[Langos] The letter was only a legal operation. It concerned those members who were passed by the evaluation commissions, were screened for the work in the National Security Corps, but could not find any job with either the National Security Corps or the Public Security. A deadline was set for them, by which they had to find a job; should they not find one, they were dismissed.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Was that not their problem?

[Langos] No, it was not. As a result of the announced reorganization, the number of jobs was reduced, and there was nothing to be offered to them. Thus far, there would be no problem, but the government must approve any reorganization and that did not happen. Minister Sacher announced the reorganization without any prior knowledge of the government, and therefore in violation of the law. Hence, the jobs disappeared illegally and it had to be legally corrected. This purpose was served by that letter.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Nonetheless, what if some units of, let us say, the Public Security object to incorporating, albeit screened, former State Security members? They might feel that it will jeopardize the citizens' trust, etc. Will you take this into consideration?

[Langos] Such cases occurred and this resulted in a proposal to form a new vetting commission, under the jurisdiction of the republics, to guarantee that those who passed are absolutely suitable for work in the future police.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] There are also many who did not pass the evaluation, and who have not accepted the decision; for instance, some are appealing the results. What happens to these appeals?

[Langos] I have passed all appeals against dismissal on to the Central Commission for their decision. It suggested their rejection and I confirmed the refusal. I do not intend to renege on that. I approved the appeal only in two exceptional—and well substantiated—cases.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] There are, however, many cases when professionally capable and irreproachable people are put away in some unimportant and marginal jobs, while people of lesser quality are often selected for the decisive posts What will you do about that?

[Langos] Before the year is over, I intend to propose to the government a structural reorganization of the Federal Ministry of Interior and another reduction of the staff. Thereby, the of employment of unqualified and superfluous people should be reduced to a minimum, and at the same time the assigning of the decisive posts would change dramatically. We know of many good and qualified people and the newly formed criteria for complex evaluation provide us with a basis for employing them correspondingly. For instance, according to these criteria, a superior will have the right to dismiss anybody whose work he finds unsatisfactory.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] There is no guarantee that this measure will not have exactly the opposite effect if the same superiors remain in position.

[Langos] New people, without the burden of the past, are gradually being posted in all administrative units of the ministry. They are becoming the new department directors and leading workers, and the responsibility will be with them. That is also true for the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Nevertheless, readers write to us that this office hires former State Security members, be they screened or not. Do you believe that such people can be trusted?

[Langos] Those who did not pass the evaluation are not being hired. The screened members are. It concerns above all, the experts, for instance in the area of tailing or intelligence technology. The training in tailing targets takes at least one and a half years. Of course, there is no need to tail dissidents, but terrorists, for instance, or smugglers must be followed. That is normal in the whole world. We start with the premise that the office has no executive powers and all its employees are subjected to the new leadership. Willful work by individuals is prevented and control over the work is easy under the new system in the Office. The operation of the entire office, and that includes its individual tasks, can be examined directly by the parliament and thereby, de facto also by the public. In this respect, there should be no problems.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Is it not all just a naive illusion of an ideal state? After all, even some civic commission complained, before you took office, about the obstacles which substantially complicated their investigation; furthermore, they were so-to-speak, at the source. Do you think that the situation has changed?

[Langos] I like the work the civic commissions have done. I am convinced that they have done so much useful work as perhaps no one else. One must reckon with them even for the future, although I think that the decision to include them in the jurisdiction of the ministry is not the best. It would be more appropriate to assign them to local autonomous administrations, perhaps even to legislative bodies. That way, it would be truly civic control without a danger of influence from within the ministry.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Speaking of control, information came to light about a substantial increase in the number of the Rapid Deployment Force members, who even enjoy some advantages similar to those enjoyed by the top sportsmen. Is it true, and if so, why?

[Langos] It is a technical problem. Prior to November, there were ninety jobs in the Rapid Deployment Force. Under Dr. Sacher, during the first wave of reorganization in the ministry, the force was assigned a much larger number, which I consider to be exaggerated. In fact, however, the size of the force did not substantially increase. The new commander started to build a new structure within the unit, according to which only a part of the force is specially prepared for combat. Others are specialists as, for instance, divers, bomb disposal experts, mountain climbers. All over the world, similar units are understood as a necessary evil, but they are useful and, therefore, tolerated. Since February the force has been used 19 times, every single time has been successful. Only I can issue an order for its deployment. There have been several instances already when I have refused to do it as I did not find the deployment substantiated.

Regarding the special diet allowance, it happened that the members of the force were tested like the top athletes and the results demonstrated that their training and physical exertion equal the preparation of athletic representatives who receive the allowance. Therefore, a proposal was submitted to disburse the allowance also to the members of the force; however, the proposal was rejected.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What about the president's protection unit and the Federal Ministry of Interior squadron?

[Langos] While the protection of the president during his travels [vnejsi ochrana presidenta] is in fact independent, it belongs to the jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of Interior. The same is true of the Federal Ministry of Interior squadron, which was transferred by a government decree under the jurisdiction of the Government Presidium Office, but which the Federal Ministry of Interior still finances and provides with technical service. Both these decrees should be reviewed and the final decision should be made as to the jurisdiction and financing.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] There is also plenty of talk about the establishment of some kind of parallel intelligence networks. They are supposed to have been built up by the president's protection unit, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy, the Rapid Deployment Force, and perhaps also by the Czechoslovak People's Party.

[Langos] That is nonsense. The Federal Ministry of Interior has its intelligence service and so does the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy. No one else has any intelligence network.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What about the possibility of misusing the former agency networks of the State Security?

[Langos] Unfortunately the damage caused by the [willful] destruction of the documents is horrendous. Heretofore, no abuse of any materials has been proved. Those which remain are in the charge of the protection of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy, which does not have executive powers. It is not true that new interwoven agency networks are being established at the individual departments of the Federal Ministry of Interior. Archives must not serve as "data banks of filth." The new concept of the Ministry does not intend for the office to have any network of agents, but it will recruit citizens who are capable and willing to help. In addition, it should have open public relations.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] When assuming office, you said that you want "to stop the civil war" in Czechoslovakia. What did you mean by that?

[Langos] I meant the termination of the diverse affairs concerning the evaluation and the Interior Ministry. I believe that I am doing alright in this respect.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] That sounds as if you wanted to protect the former agents of the State Security? One must somehow prevent the former agents from obtaining the decisive posts in the state administration.

[Langos] Of course, I do not want to protect them. The Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy assumed the entire surviving agency of the State Security. This office will make a statistical analysis of the movements of the people registered as the State Security agents.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] This means that it will analyze the movements of all 140,000 former State Security agents.

[Langos] There were not that many of them. It involves a number about 10 times smaller. Upon request by constitutional officials, the Office will conduct the evaluation and, as the case may be, an analysis of the former State Security members' activities. The applicant for the screening will then be provided with information on the suitability or unsuitability of enlisting that person.

Under no circumstances, however, do I agree with stirring up affairs concerning the evaluation. It poisons the political atmosphere and it does not bring good results. They are only scandals.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Your predecessor, Richard Sacher, used to proclaim that the former security staff from the 1950's were building totalitarianism and, although they later tried to redress their share in violations of the law, they are not acceptable for the present Federal Ministry of Interior. According to him, the people who took part in the oppression during the past 20 years are more dependable. Do you share this opinion?

[Langos] I would not phrase it so strongly.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Mr. Minister, can you tell us, over the recent period, what has surprised you the most?

[Langos] I am surprised by the number of directions from which attacks are made at the Federal Ministry of

Interior, in which the process of changes and elucidations is still in progress, and fundamental reorganization is only in the preparatory stage.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Certainly, you cannot be surprised at the attacks by the press after you banned information to journalists, while there is basically no press office at the Federal Ministry of Interior.

[Langos] I did not ban it. I only sent a letter to my subordinates in which I recommended their not informing the journalists. I was led to writing the letter by the unfortunate experience that many Federal Ministry of Interior officials were passing on to the journalists unqualified and false information, which could have incited unnecessary passions.

As a result of the evalutaion, the ministry press office staff was fired, except for the secretary, and new qualified people have as yet not been found.

Interior Minister Talks About Security Situation

AU1209171790 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 7 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Josef Tucek report: "We No Longer Have any Spies"]

[Text] The report on the security situation in our country presented yesterday by federal Minister of the Interior Jan Langos to the members of the Defense and Security Committees of both parliamentary chambers aroused exceptional attention. One of the reasons for this is because crime in our country extends beyond all limits. Yet the public still feels uneasy about what the former members of the State Security Corps are doing and how many of them remain in the "new" police corps. The "letter of excuse" written by Jan Langos to the dismissed State Security members was accepted with no small surprise. Questions on this subject were published in our newspaper on Wednesday [5 September]. Because these questions were asked by the deputies yesterday, Jan Langos answered many of them. Nevertheless, some of his answers were not complete.

Above all, it is necessary to appreciate that the majority of the deputies rejected the idea that journalists should remain in the corridors.

The fact that is known to all of us, that is, that crime is growing at an unprecedented rate, was illustrated by the minister, who presented exact numbers. Compared to the first six months of last year, some 140,000 more crimes were committed (that is, an increase of 41 percent)! As of 1 August, there were 170 murders registered in the Federation: In 20 cases, the murderers have not yet been found. Half of the 2,200 robberies remain unexplained. Drug trafficking, which is a part of international organized crime, has become more frequent. This year two shipments of one of the most dangerous drugs, heroin, were seized on our territory. The minister also said that, according to unverified reports, drugs are distributed for free in Slovakia, which apparently testifies to the fact that traffickers want to establish a market—a network of drug addicts. The Federal Government was presented with a new concept for the security policy, yet the minister was unable to offer a single guarantee that the police would be able to intervene more efficiently. According to his estimate, the security units would need three times the number of the people they have now! And they are lacking. The only exception is the Rapid Deployment Forces Unit, which doubled since the beginning of this year.

No less important was the information provided by the minister about the former State Security Corps members. Jan Langos said that their activity is supervised by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy. Disturbing is the fact that they are establishing private detective offices and no law forbids their buying a gun, etc.

The screening commission of the Interior Ministry dealt with commanders and leaders and with all those who had been somehow active within the Sate Security Corps. They did not deal with other policemen. They screened 13,248 members of the Security Corps and professional soldiers (from within the Interior Ministry troops) and 2,764 persons had to leave the ministerial department. A great number of the former State Security Corps members (having been screened by screening commissions and civic commissions) remained in service in other departments—provided they were accepted by their chiefs—including the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy. The minister, in fact, stated that it was necessary to utilize their professional skills while their chiefs and collaborators kept a close eye on them.

On the subject of the "letter of excuse" to the dismissed State Security Corps members, the minister said that he did not consider this letter to be an excuse, but a necessary solution to the unsatisfactory legal situation. "I could not have done otherwise," he said, yet he did not say in no uncertain terms who was responsible for the notices given to the State Security members who were not fully in line with the law.

The questions by deputies also concerned the Orfei scandal. This matter is not clear; maybe the Italian intelligence service acquired some of the volumes belonging to our former intelligence administration. How that could have happened is the subject of investigation by the inspectorate of the Ministry of Interior. Czechoslovak agents from all over the world have been recalled, and if someone has stayed, then he is doing his regular job, as a tradesman for example, and the Ministry of Interior does not want him to earn extra money as an agent.

The deputies learned, substantially more than before, about the police school for foreign students in Zastavka near Brno. The school had, apart from regular police

classes, a special educational branch—for "the protection of state"—where "state security" subjects were taught. Students were accepted for these studies during travels by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee secretaries throughout the world and there are no written documents about it. The minister also spoke about the fact that foreign terrorists liked to stay in Czechoslovak hotels....

New Secret Service Established: No Police Powers

LD1409215990 Prague CTK in English 1758 GMT 14 Sep 90

[text] Prague Sept 14 (CTK)—The new Czechoslovak secret service will have exclusively intelligence nature without any repressive authority and the only result of its work will [be] information, Jiri Miller, head of the Office for Protection of the Constitution and Democracy told journalists here today.

He added that the Federal Service for Protection of the Constitution, as the service is to be called, will not be given police powers. It will not be authorized to investigate, interrogate and conduct home searches. This is a basic difference between the new service and the former secret police StB.

The new service will gain information serving as groundwork for bodies involved in legal proceedings and as strategic information for state officials whom these reports should help in making their decisions.

The federal service will be under consistent control, according to a draft bill to be submitted to parliament. The Czechoslovak president will appoint the service's head at the proposal of the Czechoslovak Government which should approve the organizational structure and number of the service's employees. It will also be controlled by the parliament.

Jiri Miller further said that the new service will be strictly apolitical. The service's employees are not allowed to join any political party or movement, to receive any instructions from political parties or to interfere in their activities.

Jiri Miller said that it was necessary to pass the bill as soon as possible. Before this is done, the service will strive to be separated from the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Jiri Miller said that the present authority of the office was very vaguely defined. The planned separation from the Interior Ministry should solve this.

Asked why Czechoslovak Interior Minister Jan Langos did not order the service's separation from the Ministry of the Interior Jiri Miller said that Jan Langos had a clear concept, but he encountered structures within the ministry which did not support him.

New Military Association Criticizes Army Leadership

AU1409073590 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 8 Sep 90 p 1

[Interview with Vlastimil Hanke, a representative of the Free Legion, by a "(BAU)"-signed reporter; place and date not given: "Quo Vadis, Army?]

[Text] The founding congress of the Free Legion, a special interest association involving career soldiers, soldiers undergoing basic training, and civilian employees in the Army, will take place today. Vlastimil Hanke, one of its representatives, granted us an interview. Among other things, he said:

"The Free Legion is striving by all means possible to eradicate the roots of marasmus in the Army. If some responsible person had really listened to us at the start of the revolution, this organization would not have to exist. In view of the fact that the Army has remained a strong state within a state with weak foundations, we cannot assume that changes will be implemented. On the contrary, the Army leadership is currently continuing with its absurd changes and amendments. This is certainly not in the interest of democratization, as is being said in public, but is in the interest of strengthening positions. Instead of the proclaimed rapprochement with the public and the Army's increased prestige in society, the leadership is continuing undisturbed to intensify the mutual gulf."

[ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY] The defense minister has called the attacks against the Army slander which ensues from incomplete and distorted points of view.

[Hanke] Among the Free Legion's files are hundreds of critical reservations about the democratization process underway in the Army. These reservations come from all kinds of soldiers—from soldiers undergoing basic training, from warrant officers, and from senior officers. It is impossible to label their similarity or concurrence anything other than fact. However, it is also possible to understand the minister's opinion from his point of view, if we realize that he knows best of all what information is being provided.

[ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY] Military Revival and the Union of Professional Soldiers have promised in their programs that they will be a kind of opposition to the Army leadership. What is your opinion of these organizations?

[Hanke] The situation today is as follows: After achieving its main aims—rehabilitation and reactivation—Military Revival merged with the leadership current. The issue of the Union of Professional Soldiers is even more significant. Right from the very beginning the Free Legion called it a gilt-edged Mafia. Readers will certainly judge its true mission for themselves when I quote from a statement made by the deputy defense minister for education and culture (the organ which replaced the abolished political administration) at an

assembly of leading members of the Union of Professional Soldiers: "We are not satisfied with your activity, but you are not giving us a headache. The 16 members of the Free Legion are giving us a headache." I am obliged to add that the above-mentioned assembly took place at the beginning of August and that the number does not correspond to the true membership base."

[ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY] Are you cooperating with the Civic Forum?

[Hanke] It is known about the Free Legion that the majority of its members joined in the revolutionary process immediately following 17 November. Not only did we help the Civic Forum Coordinating Center distribute news from Prague to all corners of the republic, but, at the same time, we organized the Military Civic Forum. However, at the moment, the Civic Forum Coordinating Center is cut off from the Free Legion. It is not behaving coldly toward the Army problem, but is acting from the position of the information which it is receiving. It is enough merely to issue the correct orders to ensure that there is as little of this as possible.

[ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY] This means that to a great extent the former nomenclature cadres have survived in the Army leadership. In what way do you want to struggle with them?

[Hanke] In its program the Free Legion has a profuse number of aims dangerous for the nomenclature cadres. For example, the immediate dissolution of unnecessary organs, a reduction in the salaries of senior administrative officials, and—on the contrary—an increase in the salaries of civilian employees, warrant officers, and officers working for, or directly providing for, the troops. The current leadership argues that democratization has to be learned. The ordinary worker and the small entrepreneur have understood that without honest labor no one will have an easy life in our country. However, what kind of reaction can the generals expect from the public when people find out that since August all soldiers without exception have had their salaries increased by approximately 200 korunas? Why? For what reason? Are the orders coming from heaven, then?

Proof of Army Misuse in Nov 1989 Events Found

AU1209174490 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 8 Sep 90 p 8

["(IJ)"-signed report: "A Puzzling Order"]

[Text] Two senior officers from the Ministry of National Defense investigation department have submitted important documents to Jiri Krizan, the president's adviser for defense and security matters, which cast doubts on the claim made by Anton Slimak, chief of the Czechoslovak Army General Staff, that the Czechoslovak Army adopted a neutral stance in November 1989. After the president's adviser hands over these materials to Vaclav Havel, a commission will probably be established to investigate the situation in the Army when internal political changes were taking place at the end of last year. The officers from the Ministry of National Defense investigation department have reacted to the chief of the General Staff's statement in which he denied the existence of an order dated 15 November 1989. According to an article published in ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY on 25 August 1990, this order placed some Czechoslovak Army divisions and units on combat alert for an intervention against "anti-socialist forces." The investigation department's officers have turned to reserve Colonel Zbynek Cerovsky, a Charter 77 signatory, with a request to mediate in a meeting with the president of the Republic. They were willing to submit indirect proof to him alone that the order of 15 November 1989 to misuse the Army existed. It will not be easy to find direct proof because, according to Zbynek Cerovsky, military archives were extensively destroyed in March of this year.

[Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech on 11 September, page 1, carries a 250-word report on a news conference given by President Havel's spokeswoman in which it is stated that "President Vaclav Havel has agreed to the establishment of a special commission to investigate the activity of the Army during November 1989, that means prior to 17 November and afterwards. Its composition was entrusted to Jiri Krizan, presidential adviser on domestic policy. This commission started its activity yesterday."]

Orders Issued for Army Intervention in Nov Events

AU1709101090 Prague ZEMDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 10 Sep 90 p 2

[Jan Bauer report: "Should Minister Vacek Resign?"]

[Text] "Post-November development in the Army is highlighted by the former regime's shadow policy, a policy which can be substantiated by direct evidence and which today and every day the Ministry of Defense declares to be its democratization process," proclaims the statement adopted at Saturday's [8 September] Free Legion Congress in Prague which was attended by 40 delegates from 36 military units throughout the CSFR.

The participants bitterly criticized conditions in the Army and pointed to its insufficient moral and professional state and to the incompetent and compromised officers who are still sponging off it. According to statements made by the congress' delegates, the Ministry of Defense, headed by Minister Vacek and other senior officers, bear complete responsibility for this situation. For example, opinions were voiced at the congress that it is unthinkable that orders are being issued in the Army by the same officers who prior to 17 November issued completely different orders. It is a paradox that 92 percent of the people from the Army's former party-political apparatus, many of whom had frequently acquired their only qualifications from evening Marxism-Leninism courses, are still working in Army units, mostly in the education and culture section.

At a news conference following the congress, the delegates demanded that Army General Miroslav Vacek resign from his post as defense minister. The congress' participants replied in the affirmative to a question from ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY on whether this position should not be occupied by a civilian, as is the custom in all truly democratic states.

In view of the fact that on 25 August ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY published an interview with Colonel Zbynek Cerovsky who, allegedly, saw an order according to which some military units were to have eventually intervened in Prague on 17 November 1989 and whose existence was denied by Lieutenant Colonel Anton Slimak, chief of the General Staff, in subsequent statements, we asked Warrant Officer Roman Svoboda, a Free Legion representative from an air force unit in Pardubice, for an explanation:

"I would like to state," he told us, "that Lieutenant Colonel Anton Slimak is speaking half truths in his statement about the Army's attitude toward last year's November events. We can prove that the matters which Colonel Cerovsky spoke about in the interview for your newspaper are true. In November 1989 orders were indeed issued for the allocation of forces and resources to maintain peace and order. Apart from this, orders were also issued concerning the Army's political staff and staff from military counterintelligence in which the tasks guaranteeing this intervention were determined. However, we do not think that these matters should be dealt with publicly; we want to resolve them via the president and parliament."

[ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY] This means that you cannot make a copy of these orders public?

[Svoboda] We are talking about strictly secret materials which are still secret because they also concern mobilization plans.

[ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY] Is it true that in March this year Lieutenant Colonel Slimak issued a special order for the destruction of orders pertaining to November 1989?

[Svoboda] This I cannot say, but all these orders were mostly destroyed. Some orders are subject to destruction within a specific period—for instance, within three months—so, for the most part, the documents from the incriminating period really do not exist. However, some have been preserved.

Among other things, we found out at the Free Legion Congress that orders were not the only issue in November 1989. Many unit commanders, particularly of tank and motorized infantry units, swore oaths of loyalty to Milos Jakes, at that time Communist Party of Czechoslovakia general secretary, and, following his fall, to Karel Urbanek. The majority of these commanders are still working in their posts today.

Parliament Approves Economic Reform Blueprint

LD1809172790 Prague CTK in English 1707 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 18 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak parliament has given a go-ahead to the implementation of the blueprint for economic reform, worked out by the government and published at the end of last month.

In a resolution approved at its session on Monday, the Federal Assembly (parliament) described it as a rational project of solving the complex problems of the Czechoslovak economy.

The approval winds up almost three weeks of detailed debates in parliamentary committees and finally in the full session. The parliament has ordered expert studies of the reform from five independent groups and its go-ahead for the government blueprint was actually also a vote of confidence in the government.

Despite its acceptance of the blueprint the Federal Assembly recommended to use all suitable methods of privatization in order to achieve a rapid and effective change of ownership. Some deputies noted that a great amount of financial means of the population would be used in what is called "small privatisation", i.e. the transfer of shops, workshops and the services into private ownership. This money will then be lacking in the denationalisation of large industrial and agricultural enterprises.

The Federal Assembly recommended that the government complete a comprehensive system of all social measures related to the economic reform. Ecological aspects were described as an indivisible part of the reform.

Despite the approval, also doubts have apparently appeared in the parliament whether the government will have enough strength and means to push through the proposed steps. Without these doubts being specified, the resolution said that "the federal government should maintain permanent dialogue with the economic committees of the parliament" and "permanently cooperate with the governments of the two republics" in the implementation of the reform.

Economic Prospects Given to Foreign Entrepreneurs

AU1709110490 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 8

["(JS)"-signed report: "Foreign Entrepreneurs Are Mapping Out Territory"]

[Text] An intense working atmosphere regarding the CSFR's economic reform strategy is a brief characterization of the meeting of the prestigious World Economic Forum, an independent and impartial nonprofit making organization based in Geneva, which took place on 6 and 7 September in Prague and Kolodeje.

Those who accepted the invitation to participate—approximately 120 important representatives of foreign political, financial, and entrepreneurial circles were among them—were interested in acquiring the maximum possible topical and matter of fact information which would help them to orient themselves properly in the still uncharted territory of the investment, commercial, and other aspects of the economy in the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. The hosts complied with their interest to an extent which corresponds to the significance of this meeting. The speeches made by the premiers of our three governments and the involvement of the federal government's entire ministerial economic team, members of the national governments, and other personalities from various spheres of our life were an indication of the importance of this meeting.

The main interest, understandably, was focussed on our economic reform policy. The questions—as might have been expected—concentrated, first and foremost, on entrepreneurial guarantees: protection of investments (among other things, in case of eventual nationalization), the possibilities for transferring profits in convertible currencies, taxation conditions, possible preferential treatment, a clear outline of social legislation, as well as the stability of our political situation. Of course, other factors animatedly discussed at Kolodeje were also placed on the scales of investment considerations: the labor force's qualifications and adaptability, the standard of the infrastructure (particularly communications and transportation), the aims of state structural policy, and a clarification of the country's key problems such as energy supply provisions, environmental protection, and so on.

The replies to a number of questions, naturally, could only be as specific as the state of preparations and the clarification of reform steps permit, particularly the fundamental steps such as privatization policy, price liberalization, and the internal convertibility of the koruna. The foreign visitors, who are systematically following our post-November development, appreciate the obvious shift in the preparations for reform as well as our clearly expressed resolve to proceed quickly and radically, a point made by V. Vales, federal deputy premier, and others. However, this is still not enough in a majority of cases for specific entrepreneurial decisions.

The scale of uncertainties which play a role in the precise classification of the adaptability of a country as a territory suitable for foreign investment is still weighed down in our country by a number of unknown factors which result from the fact that the most important decisions, including the approval of the reform scenario and 23 new laws, will only now be made in parliament. Unfortunately, political factors also contribute to this; sharp and experienced observers unequivocally evaluate the disintegrative tendencies in our economy as an anachronism which runs counter to the current of economic and social progress being made in the unifying Europe. Some entrepreneurs have also expressed their anxiety about whether there will be enough resolve to part ways with the false concept of social certainties which operate like a brake on enterprise.

We asked Mr. Klaus Schwab, president of the World Economic Forum, for his overall impression of the course of the meeting. His opinion reflected the general view: "It was a very interesting conference; in many respects it revealed to us how the general conditions are, or will be, for linking the international economy to Czechoslovakia's. Of course, it also demonstrated a number of important elements about which fundamental decisions have not yet been made.

"As far as the question about whether or not some of the conference's participants have resolved to invest in your country is concerned, we are convinced that the answer is yes. Perhaps not immediately, but a decision on investing always requires a longer time; this also concerns joint ventures. It is like a marriage: It is necessary to get to know each other, to acquire better information about each other, and—in time—trust is placed in each other. I am convinced that this meeting has led to the development of trust."

Not only the foreign guests, but our participants—both from the center and from enterprises—in the end learned something from the important meeting which President Vaclav Havel addressed briefly before it came to an end. Undoubtedly, the effect of the joint meeting will be long-term. However, the question remains whether it would not have been more suitable to have held the meeting on a date closer to the beginning of next year.

Trade Union Official Queried on Reforms

LD1609211190 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Interview with Igor Pleskot, president of the Czech and Slovak Confederation of Trade Union Associations, by Vaclav Klement; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] During the past week the Federal Assembly committee have been discussing the economic reform scenario and its social consequences. Trade unionists are also talking about it and that is why reporter Vaclav Klement interviewed Igor Pleskot, president of the Czech and Slovak Confederation of Trade Union Associations.

[Klement] What is the standpoint of the trade unions on the economic and social reform of the federal government? You discussed these questions at the extraordinary session of the Czech and Slovak Confederation of Trade Union Associations.

[Pleskot] The trade unions support economic reform, quickly if possible because time is the greatest enemy. Second, trade unions are concerned by the fact that the social scenario was formulated so late, and in a number

of cases there is a lack of understanding of the connection of economic and social reform, which must be understood as a whole in order to ensure that it is successfully realized. For this reason some things which are in the social reform are at best disputable.

[Klement] And what are your main reservations concerning the actual documents on the draft laws about collective bargaining, collective agreements, and draft amendments to the legal code which are often under discussion and with a little nervousness in work places?

[Pleskot] As far as collective bargaining is concerned the proposal contains, first, one element with which we expressly did not agree during the talks and we still do not agree with it. This is the question of training. It is unacceptable to us. We demand a clarification of the position of the state as an employer because for a certain minimum period the state appears as the employer and it therefore has a dual role in the talks. We are also of the opinion that the strike is not only a collective agreement in the spirit of the norms of the International Labor Organization [ILO], the strike is a form of defending the justified rights of employees, which is a much wider concept. Therefore, we do not agree that the strike should be tied only to the question of conflict concerning entering into a collective agreement. We do not agree with the ban on political strikes. This is somewhat comical if we consider how our present governments came into being. The evaluation of the illegality of a strike gives rise to the question of the independence of the courts and their capacity to evaluate conflicts. Because, they will be evaluating a whole number of conflicts other than those covered by labor legislation. Then there are some things which concern workers' legal rights about which we think some passages are contradictory. They are illogical and basically they are of an asocial character.

[Klement] What is your overall view of the draft amendment to the labor code?

[Pleskot] We have two types of reservations. The first is that the agreement that we will have time to comment on these basic documents and, if necessary, have public discussion on them has not been adhered to. This gives us cause for a number of negative suspicions: whether we are going to be caught out as far as time is concerned so that we cannot give our view. We will not accept this under any circumstances. Apart from this, in the draft amendment there are two more extensive tests and they are in principle formulated very clearly. It is a question of the protection and position of the trade union organization during talks on the number of employees—actually on redundancies—which abolishes existing protection, at least as the wording of the principles stands, which we consider to be unacceptable. Secondly, the protection of trade union officials is being abolished and once again gives rise to questions as to why Czechoslovakia has so far not ratified ILO Agreement 135 on the general protection of all trade union officials in work places, which in our view should have been ratified a long time ago.

[Klement] From what you have told me so far it emerges that you are not very happy with the way the federal government has treated trade unio Is this correct?

[Pleskot] Unfortunately, yes. We do not nderstand why methods which literally good trade unions are employed on a whole number of questions. How does the prime minister's thesis about the need for strong trade unions look in this light?

[Klement] What will the confederation do next when discussing these complicated fundamental questions?

[Pleskot] Naturally we will demand talks. We are not interested in holding up economic reform. On the contrary, we think it should go fast, but it cannot be solved in isolation so that it takes away from employees a whole number of measures which protect them and give them certain legal guarantees that their interests will be respected.

More Terrorist 'Movements' Since Gulf Crisis

AU1809171390 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 14 Sep pp 1, 2

["ert"-signed report: "High Alert for the Police"]

[Excerpt] Prague—[passage omitted] According to the disclosure by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Democracy, movements of terrorists in the Czechoslovak territory have increased substantially since the beginning of the Persian Gulf crisis. The counterintelligence service of that office received news claiming that last week two Japanese terrorists—who traveled through Czechoslovakia—crossed the borders to Hungary. Minister of Interior Langos mentioned in this connection that the French security service did not receive any information on the activities of the terrorists.

Concerning the pair of terrorists, our source indicated that they were persons who conducted research and observations in Czechoslovakia. The information obtained from the Ministry of Interior yesterday evening stated that extensive preventative measures were taken, regardless of the fact that there is no immediate danger of assassination. The appropriate security services and police units are in the state of alert.

Technical Experts Fulfilled Iraqi Contracts

AU1709195190 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 12 Sep 90 p 2

["(BAU)"-signed report: "Are Our Experts in Iraq?"]

[Text] At a news conference held on Monday [10 September], Army General Vacek, minister of defense, denied a claim made by an unidentified employee at the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade that nine Czechoslovak military experts are working in Iraq. "If they are

indeed there," he said, "then, they are not members of the Czechoslovak Army." In order to verify his claim, we turned to the Ministry of Foreign Trade with a query. We found out that nine of our technical experts from manufacturing enterprises have indeed been working in Iraq; they were carrying out guaranteed repairs on Czechoslovak products in accordance with contracts concluded a long time ago. Employees from Aera Vodochoda are mainly involved. They were responsible for our L-39 aircraft supplied to Iraq. The issue, then, indeed does not involve members of the Army. All nine experts returned to Prague on 7 September.

Crude Oil, Natural Gas Found in Southern Moravia

AU1709072990 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 11 Sep 90 p 1

[CTK report: "Geologist Search for Crude Oil"]

[Text] The South Moravian territory—approximately between Kyjov, Cejkovice, and Brno—where, during the Mesozoic and the beginning of the Tertiary period, a sea gulf spread, is called the Nesvacil drain by geologists. Geologists from Moravian oil wells in Hodonin have been watching it for 20 years. They found deposits of crude oil, as well as natural gas. Two years ago, according to a new project, research was initiated in the central part of the Nesvacil drain. Of the proposed nine wells, six have been already dug. In the well called Nasledovnice-1 an accumulation of natural gas has been found at a depth of 3,000 meters. Klobouky-2 and Hosteradky-1 wells did not confirm natural hydrocarbons, yet hydrothermal waters, the temperature of which amounts 70 to 90 degrees Celsius, have been found. In the future they can be used as ecologically clean sources of energy. In the last well in Bosovice-1, between the villages of Borkovany, Tesany, and Bosovice, new crude oil deposits have been found. At a depth of about 2,400 meters, a complex of sediments, composed of conglomerates and of silica sandstone—two layers of which are saturated with crude oil—have been found. Preliminary results show that the deposits will have industrial significance.

Civic Forum Elects Officials at Prague Assembly

LD1509220990 Prague Television Service in Czech 1730 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Excerpt] A Civic Forum assembly was held in Prague today to discuss many urgent questions in the presence of guests from Public Against Violence and leading representatives of the state. On the agenda were the movement's statutes and its future structure; the coming local government elections, too, were discussed. Pavel Rychetsky, deputy federal prime minister, and Petr Pithart, Czech prime minister, gave information about the talks held in Piestany and their outcome. On the agenda were also elections to the Civic Forum's Council, which guides the movement between congresses. Four highest representatives of Civic Forum were also elected—Petr Kucera, Vojtech Sedlacek, Dasa Havlova, and Ivan Fisera. [passage omitted]

Official Discusses Forum's Changes

LD1609203390 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] [Announcer in Slovak] Allow me to welcome in our studio Mr. Ivan Fisera, who until yesterday was a Civic Forum representative. Mr. Fisera, I have two questions. The Civic Forum's assembly ended yesterday. What changes occurred in the Forum's coordinating centre?

[Fisera in Czech] In the first place a new 10-member Council was elected. The assembly furthermore elected four representatives of the Civic Forum, that is in addition to the three you already know—Petr Kucera, Dasa Havlova, and Vojta Sedlacek. The new one is Martin Palous, who came to replace me because I believe that a politician has a right to a rest period, especially when such a hard political game is played.

[Announcer] My second question is connected with this. Views have arisen more and more frequently to the effect that the Civic Forum movement should transform itself into a political party. What are the political tendencies of Civic Forum?

[Fisera] There are naturally such tendencies. There are people who have very crystallized views that the movement should be transformed into a party, but I personally am convinced that we still ought to adhere to the words of Mr. President, who visited our assembly and who said something which I liked very much, that is that Civic Forum is a platform for calm exchanges of views and that it should remain such. There are still very fundamental tasks ahead of us—to maintain democracy, and to turn it into such a form to ensure that it lasts. Only after that could various movements perhaps split into parties, but at present let us not be in a hurry.

[Announcer] Thank you for the interview.

National Social Assembly To Form New Party

AU1309072990

[Editorial Report] Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech on 10 September, page 1, under the headline "National Social Party Constituted; Good Name and Tradition," publishes a 450-word "(sch)"-signed report on the general meeting of the National Social Assembly which took place in Prague on Saturday. According to the report, approximately 500 representatives from all regions of the Czech Republic attended the meeting, the main goal of which was to separate from the Czechoslovak Socialist Party and form a new party. This new party, the report reads, is "to revive the activity of the National Socialist Party dispersed by the communists after February 1948." The budding party assumed the original name from 1897, the National Social Party (NSS). The NSS is to be structured on a provincial, rather than on the republican basis. The report also gives information on the preparatory committee election and on the statutes adoption. C. Cejka was elected to head

the party. The report ends with a disclosure on the speech by Professor M. Adam, acting deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, who, among other things, briefed the participants on the preliminary results of the referendum on the change of the party name: "Only a few more than 5,000 of the 22,000 members took part in the referendum and the majority, it seems, favors the name Czechoslovak National Social Party."

Calfa Interviewed on Federation, Media Issues

LD1409223490 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1750 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Interview with Premier Marian Calfa, by unidentified interviewer; date and place not given—live or recorded; questions in Czech]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] Mr. Premier, a week ago we spoke about certain questions of the relations of the national governments to the federation, and since that time many important things have happened. The public knows that all three premiers spent the weekend together, and that there was a meeting in Piestany of the two governments with representatives of the federal government. Now, a week on, are you a greater optimist or have things, on the other hand, become more complicated?

[Calfa] I would begin my reply by saying that we have moved a bit further forward. I think it is known that all three of us met, that we held discussions, and the significance of Piestany is that the two governments, the complete governments, met with representatives of the federal government, and that as one unit we dealt with all the issues tabled at Trencianske Teplica—that is the first positive aspect which I see of the meeting in Piestany.

The second positive aspect I see lies in the fact that we managed in a certain way to give a positive definition to our future, our idea about the federation, our idea about the division of powers. Of course—and this has appeared in the press—contradictory views came to light in certain areas, but there are no longer so many of them now. That is to say that the views on how thing should be arranged and on the division of powers have come closer together.

[Interviewer] One of the areas which appears to be unresolved at the moment is the question of the media, the existence of the national televisions and radios. Basically there is no doubt that this is going to happen, but arguments are going on about the set-up of the federal institutions in the sphere of the media. What is your view on this?

[Calfa] In Piestany we also discussed the conclusions of the working group for this sphere. As far as radio and television are concerned, at the beginning we proceeded from the basis that they should be organized solely on a republican basis. That means that there would be Czech and Slovak televisions and Czech and Slovak radios on the understanding that the two would also make up the federal program together in some percentage or share. On behalf of the Federal Government I expressed the unequivocal view that both radio and television must have an autonomous federal structure which would report on the activity of the whole federal structure of the government, parliament, the president, and the central agencies of the federation. I must say that we discussed this for rather a long time, and in the end our views became united. There was a certain apprehension on the part of the republics that the federal structure should not be superior in some way to the two republican structures—that is not our interest at all; the point is that it should be autonomous and independent of the republics, and that it should cover federal news broadcasting, and do so on an autonomous basis. That means that it would have at its disposal the appropriate necessary production equipment. I also have the impression that this was accepted; this was the view of the ministers of culture who will be, in a way, the central agents of state administration for television and radio in the republics, so it seems to me that it only remains to deal with the technical resolution of this problem and its definition in law. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] The last question is this: The economic reform scenario is to be tabled in parliament, the government will defend the scenario and parliament deputies will give their reaction one way or the other. This begs the question to what extent will the public be prepared to accept these radical and often unpopular steps? From this point of view, what situation do you think the government is currently in?

[Calfa] Well, of course we are assessing the situation we are in, we are assessing the public mood, especially because the scenario contains a number of measures which will truly affect the life of every individual. I can say that on the 27th all three governments are going to meet, evidently in Kromeriz, and evidently with the participation of the president. We want to adopt a sort of government concept, which will then be put on a legal basis, of the so-called small privatization. In other words, in fact the process under which restaurants, service outlets and so forth, such as dressmaking, services, and production will pass into private ownership. In short, we are really beginning in this second half of the year, we are really serious about it, and we are really declaring the onset of fundamental economic changes which, as I have already said, are going to affect the day-to-day life of our people. [passage omitted]

Privatization Laws To Be Discussed in Parliament

AU1709143390 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 8 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Vladimir Cechlovksy report: "Employees on Credit, Outsiders for Cash"]

[Text] Prague (From our correspondent) — The Czech Republic Ministry for the Administration of National Property and its Privatization have finished the work on the draft law on the so-called small privatization which is to be presented to the government for discussion. It will be submitted to the deputies for discussion at the end of

September or the beginning of October, and by the end of the year the objects designated for privatization will be put up for sale?

This is how the next steps were outlined by the officials from this ministry headed by Minister Tomas Jezek. The officials said that the following kinds of equity are to be proposed for privatization: communal enterprises, enterprises offering services, small construction companies, branches of larger state enterprises, and also the property of organizations collecting membership dues. This includes the state owned real estate on which such concerns are located and the commercial premises which house them. The list of the places of business designed for privatization will be made by the District Commission—the size of the place of business will not be restricted in any way, for example, in the number of employees or existing turnover. Only Czechoslovak citizens may buy such concerns be they employees at a place of business designated for privatization or other interested individuals. However, employees will have the advantage of being allowed to repay the auction price over a period of up to five years (no interest will be charged), while others will be obliged to pay the price within three days. A place of business can be bought by an individual as well as by a group of people, which can be advantageously used by employees.

The auction itself will be prepared by District Commissions at which representatives from the National Committee, the Association of Entrepreneurs, the Union of Cities and Countryside, a deputy, and specialists will be present. The lists of businesses to be auctioned will be published in advance and they will contain the equipment, obligations, and asking prices. These prices are to be 50 percent of the established value of the fixed assets and, in case of an organization collecting membership dues, 20 percent of the acquisition costs. The actual selling price will be determined at the auction. In order to prevent various types of speculation, auctions are to be held throughout the CSFR at the same time. Lists will not contain businesses that are to be taken over, based on the so-called reprivatization, by their original owners.

Compared to previous versions of the draft law, some changes have been made concerning the disposal of the property. Individuals who have already acquired property will be allowed—regardless of whether they are employees and whether the original loan was paid off—to freely dispose of the property, that is, to sell it without any restrictions. Some journalists pointed out that this will cause speculation.

A total of 30 percent of the yield from the privatized property will go to the Communal Fund, where the money will be deposited for a certain period of time, and then invested in the entrepreneurial activity of the community. A total of 70 percent of the yield is designed for the National Equity Fund of the pertinent republic.

What will happen to the employees who have been working in privatized businesses and who will be laid off? It is believed that they will find jobs in services that suffer from staffing shortages. If there are wage claims made by these people, they will be paid from the state budget.

Journalists were informed that on 13 September parliament is supposed to discuss the law on softening the impact of the consequences of some wrongdoings in the ownership sphere (so-called reprivatization in which the property will be returned to original owners).

Science and Technology Parks Society Constitued

AU1409204190 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 10 Sep 90 p 2

["az"-signed report: "Science and Technology Parks"]

[Text] At least 11 science and technique or technology parks are being established in the Czech Republic. Many of them are a reaction to the threat of unemployment in the regions with those branches of industry which are subject to the reduction program (Ostrava district, the Ore Mountains). Others aim at utilizing the fixed assets of their research basis (Prague, etc.). Support for foundation of small companies in these parks originates also with the European corporations in the form of the TEMPUS program. Our Union of Cities and Communities cooperates as well. On Thursday [6 September], the individual and collective members of the Science and Technology Parks Society met for the first time and elected academician Armin Delong president. The seat of the society is at the Research Institute of the Scientific-Technical Development in Prague and regional sections will also be established, beside Prague, in Brno and Plzen.

Knazlo Interviewed on New Sovak Ministry Tasks

AU1209173090 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 8 Sep 90 p 3

[Interview with Milan Knazko, Slovak minister of international relations, by Alena Melicharkova; place and date not given: "Will the Focal Points of Misunderstanding Disappear?"]

[Text] A great deal of misinformation has been circulating about the newly established Slovak Ministry of International Relations. It is sometimes surprising that those who attacks other people do not even take the trouble to try and better understand the problem. Then, perhaps, our colleagues from LIDOVE NOVINY would not forget that the establishment of such an institution was outlined in the Slovak Government's policy statement. As we all know, this has been public knowledge for several months. The Slovak Government's intention to establish a department for such a purpose in no way casts doubts on our single CSFR foreign policy.

[Melicharkova] What will the jurisdiction, aims, plans, and tasks of this newly established department in Slovakia be, especially in relation to foreign countries?

[Knazko] I think that it is necessary to gradually clarify the chaos we inherited from the totalitarian regime and to make our federative arrangement comprehensible, so that all the focal points of possible misunderstanding and tension disappear. The jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs is unequivocal in interstate agreements dealing with issues of war and peace, security in Europe, and our entry into the European Community and other groupings in Europe and the world. The issue of the specific implementation of these plans—which often do not get through the bureaucratic federal red tape—is different. We will take a very active interest in this. We should all be aware that some states—Belgium, the FRG, Yugoslavia, the Soviet Union, and others—are unions of several republics. It will be useful to establish direct contacts on this lower level. This issue is all the more topical because of the collapse of the market in Eastern European states and because these countries are incapable of fulfilling agreements reached at a federal level. To this effect, opportunities for entering communities where only part of various countries are members—for example, the Alpine-Adriatic community—are being offered. Concern for our fellow countrymen is also of primary importance. Apart from this, we would be glad to take a more active part in the tactics and strategy of Czechoslovak foreign policy.

[Melicharkova] What should this participation consist of, specifically?

[Knazko] In the past, the ministry's collegiums were more or less formal. We found out at these collegiums what was going on in foreign policy. We would like to hold consultations in advance so that Slovakia's specific problems—which merit attention, for example, from the point of view of cooperation with foreign partners—could also be taken into consideration. This also involves the specific coordination of various kinds of assistance from abroad, for example, in the knowhow sphere. It is necessary to quickly reconstruct our representation abroad. We agreed with Mr. Dienstbier that we will take care to ensure that Slovak staff are adequately represented in the newly occupied diplomatic posts. This means, however, that it will be necessary to find capable people who possess language and specialist prerequisites.

[Melicharkova] The establishment of a department at Comenius University to train diplomats has been mentioned.

[Knazko] This is a good and interesting plan. We, however, may only expect some results in five or six years. Today we are already receiving applications from people interested in working in the diplomatic service. As soon as we establish the basic structure of our department, we will hold competitions to ensure that we have well qualified people with a knowledge of languages. We will recommend some for employment in the diplomatic service to represent us honorably and to carry out useful work.

[Melicharkova] Milan Knazko is well known in public circles because of his appearances on the stages of our leading theaters and, first and foremost, because of his participation in the most dramatic events of our lives. His contribution there is obvious. What does he want to introduce into the sphere of international relations?

[Knazko] First and foremost, I would like to take several specific steps which would satisfy me as a citizen, especially in relation to the past. I think our foreign policy strategy should be balanced both in relation to Europe and to America and Japan. I do not support excessive orientation toward the FRG. Economic dependence could very easily turn into political dependence. I would be glad to help in orienting policy toward countries such as France, Italy, and Britain. When I accompanied the president to France, we received several interesting offers from various spheres. For example, in nuclear power plant safety, the automobile industry, agriculture, telecommunications, and high speed trains. I am afraid that there are still mechanisms which somehow prevent our closer association with France to the detriment of Germany. This is my own personal opinion.

[Melicharkova] The specific steps which you intend to take within the framework of the newly established department are also particularly interesting.

[Knazko] I want to contribute toward ensuring that the agreements concerning Renault and Citroen in relation to Mlada Boleslav and the Bratislava Automobile Plants are examined very carefully. I would like to do my very best to ensure that we succeed in getting into the European Community on a federal level. It would please me very much if on my forthcoming visit to Paris, I achieve for Bratislava the status of organizer of the EXPO 1990 exposition alongside Vienna and Budapest! One of my wishes is for Bratislava to utilize its geographic location and its closeness to Austria and Hungary to establish a duty-free zone on part of its territory. This would certainly introduce a great deal of investment and bring about a change in the infrastructure not only in the city, but throughout Slovakia, and would have an influence on environmental protection.

Civic Forum on Changes in High-Ranking Personnel

AU1809075990 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 11 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Petr Kucera, member of the Civic Forum Coordinating Center in Prague, by Juraj Gressner, SMENA correspondent; place and date not given: "Without Trust, We Will Not Take One Step Forward"]

[Text] There are problems which are equally burning in Slovakia as they are in Bohemia. Unnecessary misunderstandings resulting from the dearth of mutual information are often the main reason for them....

[Gressner] Recently, I have often encountered in Bohemia the opinion that Slovaks "wreak havoc" when demanding autonomy and more rights within the framework of the Czechoslovak federation....

[Kucera] This fact is historically conditioned. Namely, in the past, the Czechs had more of a chance to a sense of gain their own national conscience and the majority of Czechs today fuse the notion of the Czech Republic with that of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.... That is also the main reason for their lack of understanding for the current endeavors of Slovaks to establish their own identity. Moreover, Bohemia was also more internationalized, hence nationalism and national sentiments are for us rather marginal issues.

[Gressner] Thus far, however, this type of utterance aroused misunderstandings. How do you view this situation in the future?

[Kucera] With optimism. Namely, I see your endeavors to establish your own identity as a positive phenomenon. It is an unavoidable process. I am convinced, however, that we need to communicate more, and in more detail, than we have done until now. Therefore, I value positively the meetings of the representatives of our governments and the constructive and level-headed contributions by their premiers. You know, only mutual understanding of one another will make possible our future harmonious coexistence in a common state of Czechs and Slovaks.

[Gressner] Let us touch upon another common problem—the exchange of the cadres in important economic posts.... It is no secret that many significant positions are still held by discredited persons who do not have the citizens' trust.

[Kucera] First, let me tell you what is, according to the Civic Forum, the main purpose for all the changes which should take place as quickly as possible. In the first place, we consider all the adopted legal measures aimed at the former nomenclatura cadres to be legal acts which, upon their implementation, should create a situation in which a harmony of interests is achieved. Someone who is competent and knowledgeable and who enjoys the trust of employees should be put in charge of every enterprise or institution.

[Gressner] How do you envision the realization of the exchange of compromised persons in leading posts?

[Kucera] The Civic Forum will be the main guarantor in the Czech Republic, because only the Civic Forum has contacts both at the top and at the bottom. In cooperation with the Czech Government, we have already prepared the methods, so the realization of the legal measures will run uniformly, without extremes, and decently. The basic role will be played by the [enterprise or institution] founders—the ministries, and particularly by the ministers who are to appoint two personnel office employees.

[Gressner] They will be a kind of modern personnel-intelligence staff [kadrovaci]?

[Kucera] No, they will be people trusted by the ministers. They will deal with concrete cases at individual enterprises in cooperation with the company management, supervisory boards, trade unions, and civic caucuses. Thereby, room will be provided to deal with any situation. For instance, the case of a compromised director, who does not have the trust of either the staff or the management employees who surround him, will be dealt with. This will involve the breaking of several Mafias, which are the remainder of the former totalitarian regime, and the appointment to offices of people who are morally, professionally, and otherwise capable of managing the enterprises so that they will prosper and guarantee social security to their employees.

[Gressner] In some enterprises, however, relations between the management and staff are in perfect order....

[Kucera] No reason exists for personnel changes in those enterprises.

[Gressner] What is the deadline for these personnel changes?

[Kucera] We must be very active, because only concrete deeds will convince society that the Civic Forum is capable of being a guarantor of positive developments. Therefore, we have already begun with the realization of the changes, and we already have concrete cases which are dealt with. The deadline, however, is set for 1 January 1991.

[Gressner] Recently, RUDE PRAVO published a document, a kind of criteria, according to which the Civic Forum intends to evaluate the people who are interested in economic posts....

[Kucera] We, in the Civic Forum, endeavored to set criteria which should be employed in the selection of applicants for important economic, but also for other posts, for instance in the central bodies. These so-called negative criteria will be applied, however, only in cases where a concrete worker is suspected of having caused in the past a social or any other type of detriment to another citizen. It would lack any logic, if people who brought about the degradation of able people and socially damaged their families were to hold important and responsible posts in the ministries, in economic or social life, particularly if they committed these deeds on their own initiative and of their own choice. After all, they violated human rights!

[Gressner] Who will judge all this?

[Kucera] It will be simple in the enterprise sphere. People there know one another. It could be more complicated in the case of employees of the central administration, where anonymity is greater and control from below is more difficult. I would like to stress, however, that moral and professional capability, and not, like in the past, party membership, will be the decisive factor in all cases.

[Gressner] What purpose do these changes serve?

[Kucera] Without mutual trust, we cannot take a single step forward and, therefore, we cannot implement the planned economic reform. People must trust the responsible workers in the highest posts. Such cadres must work in the enterprises as well as in the central administration so as to guarantee our economic process, rather than like the members and adherents of the old totalitarian structures, whose single goal is to survive or slow down our endeavors.

KDH Prepared for 24 Nov Local Elections

LD1409140990 Prague CTK in English 1304 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Bratislava Sept 14 (CTK)—Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) in Slovakia Jan Carnogursky, first Slovak deputy premier, told journalists here today that an economically strong community and an economically and politically strong Slovakia are the movement's slogan for the November 24 local elections.

He said that candidates for mayors and members of city and village councils must be morally pure people, not burdened with the past, and capable of independent decision-making.

Jan Carnogursky said that while KDH, being a member of the government coalition, sticks to the election program of the Slovak Government even though this may cause it a certain decline in popularity, it preserves its internal freedom.

The leadership of the Christian Democratic Party as well as the whole party are united, Carnogursky pointed out.

'Movement for Independent Slovakia' Goals Noted

LD1209190790 Prague CTK in English 1627 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Bratislava Sept 12 (CTK)—Chairman of the Movement for Independent Slovakia Vojtech Vitkovsky told CTK here today that the movement feels no hostility towards the Czech nation, does not blame it for the wrongs done to the Slovaks and for the failure to fulfil agreements responsible for which are some politicians.

The movement sees future coexistence as relationship of two equal states whose borders will be open to visitors and workers from the other country just as is usual in Western Europe, Vitkovsky added.

The Movement for Independent Slovakia was founded on July 23, 1990, as one of the most radical nationalistic political organizations seeking independence for Slovakia.

According to Vitkovsky, the fact that only 10.5 per cent of respondents in a recent public opinion poll conducted in Slovakia favoured an independent Slovak state was due to the campaign being waged against nationalistic-oriented parties.

Vitkovsky said that his movement's political goals are influenced by the changing situation in the Slovak National Party (SNS) which included in its rules at a recent assembly also the question of Slovak statehood.

There are no stumbling blocks in relations betwen the two parties which consider a joint line to be pursued in the coming November local elections in order not to splinter, but on the contrary to unite the forces having identical goals, Vitkovsky said adding that in his view it is a question of time when his movement and SNS merge.

New Slovak Independence Movement Meets

LD1409030290 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 2000 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] A meeting of a newly formed movement, the Movement for an Independent Slovakia [Hnutie za nezavisle Slovensko] took place in Bratislava today. Its representatives spoke strongly in favor of making Slovakia politically and economically independent, and also called for a reassessment of history, and above all of the period of the Slovak state. The meeting also voiced criticism of the recently approved economic reform scenario.

Carnogursky Meets Ethnic Minority Representatives

AU1309191690 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 8 Sep 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Apropos Ethnic Minority Problems"]

[Text] Bratislava—Yesterday in Bratislava Jan Carnogursky, Slovak first deputy premier, received representatives of the Coexistence Movement—Miklos Duray, a Federal Assembly deputy, and Edita Bauerova, Reszo Szabo, and Stefan Harna, Slovak National Council deputies. Specific Slovak problems such as issues associated with shaping public opinion and ethnic minority problems were the subjects of the discussion.

The Coexistence Movement's representatives stated that one of the reasons for the current tense situation in ethnic minority relations—particularly in southern Slovakia—is the publication of some articles in the Slovak press which they consider to be untrue and misinformative. They showed an interest in being able to present their movement's points of view in the Slovak press and in the Slovak press publishing the response of members of ethnic minorities to items which concern these minorities. An explanation of individual problems on both sides will contribute best of all to keeping the public truly informed.

Jan Carnogursky referred to some events in Hungary which arouse suspicion on the Slovak side. He cited as an example the dissemination of maps showing pre-1918 Hungarian borders and using the name Felvidek (Upper Country) in reference to Slovakia.

The Coexistence Movement representatives said in relation to this issue that reservations against the aforementioned manifestations in Hungary should not be associated with ethnic minority policy in Slovakia.

The meeting was also oriented toward educational problems in Slovakia's ethnically mixed areas and issues connected with the draft law under preparation on an official language. The Coexistence Movement representatives prepared a written point of view on this issue as well as on issues connected with the preparations for the local elections.

Jeszenszky Discusses Slovakia Minority Issue

LD1709170490 Budapest MTI in English 1543 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Bratislava, September 17 (MTI)—Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar held talks lasting more than 90 minutes on Monday in Bratislava with Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky.

Mr Jeszenszky, who attended a Christian Democratic inter-party roundtable on Sunday in the Slovak capital, first held talks with Frantisek Miklosko, speaker of the Slovak Parliament. The talks with the Slovak prime minister were held afterwards. Also present were Milan Knazko, Slovakian minister of foreign relations.

According to information received by MTI's Prague correspondent, the national ethnic minority issue was the main theme of discussions at both meetings. Frantisek Miklosko talked about the "feeling of being threatened" felt by the Slovaks in southern Slovakia with respect to the alleged efforts to Hungarianize them. At the same time, a positive sign is that the speaker of parliament rejected the principle of reciprocity, in other words, that improving the situation of Hungarians in Slovakia depends on the way the situation of Slovaks develops in Hungary.

Vladimir Meciar mainly remarked on certain manifestations of Hungarian politics which, in his view, hinder improving the political climate and obstruct the development of economic cooperation. Skovakia does not wish to hold bilateral talks with Hungary about the rights of the Hungarian national minority in Slovakia. With respect to the borders, they are ready to discuss only the degree of restrictions, he said. In his view, the Hungarian position on acknowledging the frontier demarcation lines is not clear enough.

The sides agreed that the Slovak prime minister would visit Budapest at the end of October.

New Leadership for 'Public Against Violence'

AU1709143090 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Peter Duhan and Michal Galat report: "Should We Lack the Courage To Make Changes, We Will Also Lose the Chance for Slovakia"]

[Text] Bratislava [From our correspondents]—The session of the Public Against Violence [VPN] Movement Assembly ended on Saturday [8 Sep]. Beside the delegates from all over Slovakia, representatives of the governments of the Slovak Republic and of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, as well as several Slovak National Council and Federal Assembly deputies, who were elected to the VPN, took part in the session. Among the participants were M. Calfa, F. Miklosko, V. Meciar, J. Langos, M. Kovac, L. Kosta, and others. Petr Kucera and Jana Havlova, representatives of the Civic Forum from Prague, also accepted the invitation to the Assembly.

The session was chaired by A. Balgavy, deputy of the Federal Assembly. M. Kusy was entrusted with the role of chairman of the agenda presidium. J. Budaj presented the report on the activity of the VPN Slovak Council. J. Flamik briefed the participants on the activity of the VPN Coordinating Center as the executive body of the movement. He emphasized that even after the departure of the prominent personalities for posts in the governments and in parliament, the VPN movement had not lost its political power, and its work continues to intensify. The treasury report, read by I. Trokan, revealed that a loan of 24 million korunas was repaid to the government.

At present, the movement has 15.5 million korunas at its disposal and, given the present budget and expenses, this sum should last until the end of next March. Mr. Trokan stressed the need to find new ways of financing the movement. In addition to the membership dues and fund-raising activities, the financial situation should be stabilized also by the redistribution of a part of the assets of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia's.

The report of the Central Commission of Control and Audit indicated that several local and district VPN Committees have an inadequate material and technological base. Some of them have not acquainted themselves properly with the movement statutes of last February or have not applied them in their operation. The participants paid increased attention to the report on the implementation of VPN policies by the Government of the Slovak Republic presented by V. Meciar, its premier. The Slovak premier stated that a rapid rectification of the problems amassed in our country over long decades is not possible.

He also mentioned Hungarian-Slovak relations. He noted that this issue is the most burning one in the Slovak setting. The situation in the relations between the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Republic of Hungary is a source of increased optimism. The information indicated that the government is consistently following the VPN policy statement, the ideological platform of which is represented by the program called A Chance for Slovakia. Vladimir Meciar also mentioned some conflicts within the government. He promised, however, that even if the coalition partners left the government, the VPN policies would be realized by the government of experts.

Motions by some delegates proposing changes in the new statutes of the movement and in the election order resulted in delays in the session. Moreover, they

reflected the diversity of opinions and the quest for acceptable solutions and compromises. We consider this to be a natural phenomenon, a part of the democratic setting, so typical of the Assembly session. We do not think it proper to dramatize the conflicts of opinions and forcefully to assign to them the characteristics of a crisis or even a split in the movement. The motion changing the proposed election order made in the name of part of the delegates by Roman Zelenay should be mentioned in particular. According to this motion, the Assembly delegates should elect not only the VPN Slovak Council members, but also the VPN's chairman. The motion was not approved by a majority of votes.

Petr Kucera, deputy of the Federal Assembly, began his contribution by emphasizing that, despite the differences in the development of our republics, the goals of both partner movements are basically identical. He expressed a belief that the social changes in the past few months force us to direct the initiatives of the Civic Forum and VPN against the nomenklaturas that spread uncertainty around themselves.

On the agenda was also a draft of the regional policy statement of the VPN and strategy for the upcoming local elections. This issue is introduced elsewhere in the paper. L. Kosta, minister of justice of the Slovak Republic, also joined the discussion. He spoke of the numerous problems his ministry had inherited from the former regime, which did not deal with them.

Other speakers pointed out in their contributions, among other things, the dearth of information at the lower levels of the movement. Mr. Dolgos drew attention to the inadequate quality of the daily VEREJNOST. The east Slovak delegates were dissatisfied with the "Bratislava" centralism, which, according to them, found its physical expression in the compilation of the list of candidates for the new VPN Slovak Council. Their argument was not convincing. This was particularly obvious as the list of candidates was complemented by a further 46 names. In the evening the results of the elections to the VPN Slovak Council were announced. It consists of these 25 members: Gal, Forgac, Flamik, Butora, Simecka Sr., Budaj, Brezina, Szomolanyova, Baca, Simecka Jr., Frimel, Minarovic, Beno, Dzurasko, Malinovsky, Miklosko, Kusy, Stryko, Tatar, Balgavy, Meciar, Ondrus, Kosta, Calfa, and Knazko.

In its first session, the VPN Slovak Council elected F. Gal chairman of the VPN Slovak Council; while Professor Miroslav Kusy, Marcel Stryko (from Kosice), and Dano Brezina (Banska Bystrica) were elected deputy chairmen. Juraj Flamik was elected chairman of the Coordinating Center.

Juraj Flamik thanked Jan Budaj, the outgoing chairman of the VPN Slovak Council, in the name of the newly elected top officials of the VPN movement. He commented on Budaj's great contribution to the constitution and formation of the movement.

Suicide Threat Used to Accelerate Legislation

AU1609181690 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 10 Sep 90 p 8

[CTK report: "Under a Suicide Threat"]

[Text] The secretariat of the premier of the Slovak Republic received an anonymous letter, copies of which were received by some editorial offices. The impatient Slovaks demand that the premier speed up the issue of the law on the state language with the threat of several young people's suicide by burning. Martin Hric, the Slovak premier's press secretary, in a statement regarding the letter, among other things, said: The law on the state and official language is ready and its adoption in the Slovak National Council is expected soon. Should the young enthusiasts want to accelerate the legislative procedure, it would be a pity for their young lives as well as a desecration of the memory of Jan Palach, who decided on such a deed under entirely different circumstances.

Calfa Arrives in East Slovakia on Brief Visit

LD1509195290 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Marian Calfa, federal prime minister, arrived in East Slovak region this afternoon for a brief visit. At the Kosice airport he met representatives of Public Against Violence in eastern Slovakia, who informed him about the development of the political and social situation in the region. Marian Calfa was also interested in the future of air transport in Kosice, which will apparently not be possible to operate without the help of Federal authorities. Representatives of Public Against Violence also informed him about their notions and intentions about how to raise cultural and social life throughout the region.

Pithart Notes Progress at Intergovernmental Talks

LD1509193590 Prague CTK in English 1820 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 15 (CTK)—Czech Premier Petr Pithart said today that the talks of the Federal and two republic government representatives in Slovakia in the past week meant significant progress.

In his address at today's Assembly of the Civic Forum, Pithart said before the meetings in Trencianske Teplice and Piestany there had been fears about the unity of the state and concern that the transfers of powers from the federation to the republics might mean an end to economic reform. He said the agreement on the constitutions was of fundamental importance. He stated that the economics ministers of the federal and republic governments finally reached agreement and the transfers of powers to the republic government would in his opinion not endanger economic reform.

Federal Deputy Premier Pavel Rychetsky spoke in favour of closer cooperation between government ministers delegated by the Civic Forum and the Civic Forum itself.

Dlouhy Inspects Mochovce Nuclear Power Plant

AU1609201590 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 10 Sep 90 p 2

[Alexander Szabo report: "All Clear in Mochovce"]

[Text] Mochovce—Vladimir Dlouhy, CSFR minister, accompanied by Jan Jicha, CSFR deputy minister of the economy, and Stefan Petras, Slovak deputy minister of the economy, visited the Mochovce nuclear power plant on Saturday [8 September]. He was briefed on the state of the power plant's construction, on the problems in financing this extraordinarily demanding project, and on the replacement of the unreliable DERIS [expansion unknown] automated system for controlling the technological processes.

Minister Vladimir Dlouhy toured the site of the nuclear power plant's first block and the storage dump for radioactive waste. At a meeting with journalists he said that the Federal Ministry of Finance will provide a guarantee of credit for the further construction of the nuclear power plant in Mochovce. Before 20 September it will be necessary to make a definitive decision on the foreign supplier of an automated control system and it will be necessary to conclude a contract before the end of the month so that the first block of the nuclear power plant in Mochovce can be brought into production in 1993.

Jaslovske Nuclear Power Station To Remain Open

LD1309181290 Prague CTK in English 1613 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Prague Sept 13 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Government noted today that inspections carried out so far at the nuclear power station in Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia, do not require an immediate shutdown of the plant. A final report is to be prepared by the end of the year.

A shutdown of two units of this oldest Czechoslovak nuclear power station has been demanded by Austria.

The government dealt at its session today with a preliminary report on the safety of the plant's V-1 station and containing the results of inspections carried out by international and foreign organization by the end of the year. The inspections have been started and are being carried out by the Siemens Company of West Germany, Austrian government experts, the International Atomic Energy commission (asset mission) and the European Community.

Britain's Prime Minister Thatcher Pays Visit

Arrives, Met by Jeszenszky

LD1809164190 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Margaret Thatcher, prime minister of Great Britain, arrived in Budapest today at the invitation of Jozsef Antall, head of government, for a three-day official visit.

The British head of government, who arrived in our capital from Prague, was greeted at Ferihegy Airport by Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Antall

LD1809182790 Budapest MTI in English 1714 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—Prime Ministers Jozsef Antall of Hungary and Margaret Thatcher of Britain held talks with limited attendance in parliament building late in the afternoon on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Geza Jeszenszky, Hungarian foreign minister, and John Allen Brich, ambassador of Britain to Hungary.

Earlier, Mrs Thatcher was officially received, with military honours, in front of parliament building. The British prime minister was greeted by Jozsef Antall. The British and Hungarian personalities in attendance were mutually presented by the guests and hosts, after which Mrs Thatcher exchanged words with some of the crowd.

Antall Hosts Banquet for Thatcher

LD1809204790 Budapest MTI in English 1959 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and his wife gave a gala dinner in honour of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in Budapest on Tuesday evening. At the gala dinner, toasts were given by Jozsef Antall and Margaret Thatcher.

Speaking about the sweeping changes in Europe, Antall emphasized: "We are living in historical times in Europe, with historical chances and historical responsibility. Our aim is none less than the reunification of Europe," he said.

After speaking warmly of Hungarian-British relations, Antall said: "Hungary's entry into the community of democratic and free nations has opened up new avenues of cooperation in British-Hungarian relations and in the international field alike."

Antall cited Hungary and Britain's identical assessment of the Iraqi aggression as a good case in point. He recalled that Hungary was prompt to join the U.N. sanctions even though it realised the economic implications this would entail. Antall stressed "we greatly respect the firm position of Her Majesty's government" on this score.

"In stabilizing our pluralistic political institutions, establishing an efficient and advanced market economy, adapting it to fit the advanced European standards, and setting about our economic tasks, we wish to rely in future no less than now, on the experience and achievements of the United Kingdom. If its sympathy is one thing we can count on, we hope its continuous support is too," Prime Minister Jozsef Antall said.

When she gave her toast in return, Mrs. Thatcher emphasized that Hungary had been in the vanguard of the recent changes, and launched its economic reform well ahead of the other East Central European states. She said that the success of Britain and Hungary in creating a new tone to their bilateral ties would serve as an example for others, and help expand their freedom and independence. She added that Gorbachev's rise to power had made a huge impact on world affairs and created the conditions for change.

Referring to Hungary's economic situation, Mrs. Thatcher said it would be a hard task to reconstruct the country. Sacrifices should be made, and Western assistance, which the country would surely receive, required.

Concerning Hungary's rapprochement of the European Communities, the British prime minister stressed that though the association agreements have been drawn up, Hungary required much more than that to become a full member of the European Communities, in which each member could preserve its traditions and national identity.

As far as European defence measures are concerned, Thatcher said stability should be sustained even amidst great events, and that further efforts should be made to create a peaceful and democratic Europe governed by law and order.

Antall, Thatcher Hold Brief Talks

LD1909090490 Budapest MTI in English 0814 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 19 (MTI)—Hungarian-British prime ministerial talks continued on Wednesday morning in parliament.

Margaret Thatcher, prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, currently on an official visit to Hungary, held a brief, private meeting with her host, Prime Minister Jozsef Antall, in the prime minister's office.

Earlier in the morning, Prime Minister Thatcher placed flowers of remembrance and reverence at the statue of Raoul Wallenberg, and at the Memorial of Hungarian Heroes in Heroes's Square.

The prime ministerial discussions are continuing with the inclusion of Hungarian politicians and members of the British delegation. According to the programme, Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, is to receive Mrs Thatcher after the plenary talks, in parliament building.

Also this morning, the British prime minister is to visit the stock exchange.

This afternoon, Mrs Thatcher will meet leaders of the Alliance of Free Democrats, in parliament. The prime ministers will then answer questions of journalists at a joint international press conference.

Common Market Membership Discussed

LD1909115390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Agota Narancsik report]

[Text] Great Britain unconditionally supports Hungary's admittance to the Common Market, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said, at a British-Hungarian plenary session held in the parliament building in Budapest this morning. The prime minister added that London will urge the Brussels commission that associate membership is a transitional phase, and will insist that it should be included in the agreement to be concluded with the Common Market. The final objective is full membership.

Margaret Thatcher showed great interest in the details and processes of the Hungarian economic transformation, and she stressed the importance of privatization.

In his reply, Jozsef Antall stressed that the objective of the Hungarian Government is to establish a market economy and, within its framework, to create possibilities for foreign capital investment. The prime minister asked for London's support in the establishment of market conditions in Hungary, saying that in the transitional period British experience would be greatly needed.

Mrs. Thatcher arrived in Budapest yesterday for a two-day official visit. During her busy program today she held a 70-minute face-to-face discussion with Jozsef Antall and met with Arpad Goncz, president of the republic. Her interest in economic transformation was clearly justified by the fact that from the parliament building, she was driven straight to the stock exchange. At the moment she is having lunch in the Trade Center on Vaci Street in the company of Hungarian enterpreneurs. At 1315 she will take a short walk at Vorosmarty Square, where the people of Budapest can meet her.

Visa Requirement With UK Abolished

LD1809171190 Budapest MTI in English 1632 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—Under a Hungarian-British inter-governmental agreement signed on September 18, the compulsory visa system between Hungary and the United Kingdom will be abolished on October 1.

Those seeking employment in Britain or wishing to stay for longer than six months will still have to apply for a visa.

Visa Requirements With Benelux Abolished

LD1809172890 Budapest MTI in English 1630 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—The compulsory visa system between Hungary and the Benelux states will be abolished as of September 20, the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior announced on Tuesday.

From next Thursday onwards, the holders of valid passports will be allowed to enter the territory of Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands without having a visa, provided that their stay there will not exceed three months.

Those who are seeking employment or wishing to stay for a longer period will have to apply for a visa.

Goncz Attends U.S. National Archives Dinner

LD1809133690 Budapest MTI in English 1233 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Washington, September 18 (MTI)—Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, was welcomed on Monday evening at the National Archives of the United States, at a gala dinner. The president's host was the organization known as the Center for Democracy. Present at the ceremony were many members of the US legislative bodies and senior representatives of political and social life.

President Goncz and his wife were first welcomed by Don Wilson, chief archivist of the United States. Frank Fahrenkopf, former chairman of the Republican Party, Peter Kelly, chiarman of the board of directors of the Center for Democracy, and Dick Howard, head of the organizing committee of the bicentennial celebrations of the American Constitution, praising Goncz and his work.

In his reply, Mr Goncz said the Constitution of the United States still serves as an example to the younger democracies, including the new constitution of the Republic of Hungary.

Following a gala dinner, Tom Lantos, a representative of Hungarian origin, delivered a speech. He termed it a historical moment that the United States was welcoming the democratically elected president of Hungary for the first time ever in the person of Arpad Goncz.

At the ceremony, a letter written by President George Bush was read out. Mr Bush terms Mr Goncz, the recognised writer and scholar, as an old champion of individual freedoms, and notes he was very pleased to

have met Mr Goncz in May. Mr Bush esteemed greatly and supported President Goncz's firm efforts, and also greeted the Hungarian people struggling to promote democracy.

In conclusion, the newly-founded James Madison Memorial Medal of the Society, which fosters American historical traditions, was presented to the Hungarian president. The medal is awarded annually to outstanding personalities in recognition of their merits in popularising the spirit of the Constitution.

Makes Statement, Departs U.S.

LD1909084290 Budapest MTI in English 0648 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] New York, September 19 (MTI)—Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic of Hungary, paid a six-day unofficial visit to the United States at the invitation of the Washington-based Center for Democracy organization. Mr Goncz attended the opening ceremonies of the memorial year organized on the 200th anniversary of the American Constitution.

Prior to leaving for Budapest, Mr Goncz gave a statement about his visit.

Mr Goncz said he had received from Representative (Rep.) Christopher Cox the text of the bill in which he proposes that Hungary be taken off the list of "countries under communist influence", and to relieve the country from the accompanying economic discrimination. The proposal may come before the house in October, but by December at the latest, and its approval is very likely.

Hopefully, the Hungarian Consulate in Los Angeles will be opened. The American side also proposed to open a Hungarian sub-consulate in Miami, as economic spheres of Florida would like to participate in the development of the Hungarian hotel industry.

"While American small and medium firms figured prominently in Hungarian investments to date, I was pleased to note a serious intention from the part of giant companies as well", Mr Goncz said. He mentioned the United Technologies and Philip Morris. In the wake of his talks with corporate leaders, Mr Goncz was of the opinion it is increasingly necessary to eliminate administrative obstacles, and a feeling of suspicion, from the way of privatization. The effects of these economic indications will be even more tangible during the visit of Prime Minister Jozef Antall to the United States in October, Mr Goncz noted.

Crespo on Hungary's Admission to Council of Europe

LD1809150390 Budapest MTI in English 1405 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—Besides such current issues as the Gulf crisis and German unification, the European Parliament is also turning its attention to Hungary's admission to the Council of Europe, Enrique Baron Crespo, president of the European Parliament, said during his meeting with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall in Budapest on Tuesday.

He said that the leaders of the West European countries had approved the report of the European parliament's committee on the political situation in Hungary, and decided to support its admission application.

Enrique Baron Crespo was also briefed on the power relations in the Hungarian parliament and the political views of the parties.

He pointed out that at variance with its usual practice of building relations on a regional scale, the European parliament was now seeking bilateral contacts with the East European countries.

Speaking to journalists after the talks, Crespo stated that Hungary had every right to partake in the setting up of a peaceful and single Europe, a process beginning with its Council of Europe membership. The Council of Europe believes that Hungary's admission will also be favourable for the whole of democratic Europe.

With regard to Hungary's intention of joining the European Economic Community, Crespo pointed out that its date had to be decided by the Hungarian government, parliament and the people.

In reply to a question, he said that the European Community would decide in October on the form of economic assistance to be given to the Soviet Union and the East European countries. Humanitarian help is to be provided to countries affected the most by the Gulf crisis.

Interpellation, Response in National Assembly

LD1809161390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1246 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Interpellation in the National Assembly by Dr. Peter Tolgyssy, Alliance of Free Democrats deputy, and reply by Prime Minister Joszef Antall—live]

[Excerpts] Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, esteemed Mr. Prime Minister. [passage omitted] I feel it would be correct if here, today, you were to talk in parliament about our country's situation and the fate of government's program. Ladies and gentlemen, my firm conviction, on the 118th day following the formation of government, is that Hungary's moral, economic, and social situation is worse than it was at the time of the elections. [passage omitted] A new centralization is gaining dominance over society; the press, which had hoped to be free, is again tussling for its independence. [laughter and applause] Ladies and gentlemen, perhaps the Association of Hungarian Journalists should be asked about this. Certain statements by the governing party, in order to gain cheap popularity here at home, put the fate of the Magyars who live beyond our borders at risk. In order to conceal the lack of concept, party

politicians, and as we heard here in the House last week, responsible ministers too, mobilize passions, feelings. Instead of pragmatic action, they instigate ideological arguments. [passage omitted]

It is not an explanation for the obvious lack of results which I ask of you, Mr. Prime Minister, but I await from you an explanation for a failure to put forward most of the concrete action programs which were promised in 18 points, in chapter three of the government program's guidelines. [passage omitted] Apart from the mid-summer price hike package, all the government's bills have been prepared through reworking the bills of the Nemeth government. [passage omitted]

Mr. Prime Minister, in my judgement you, in order to ensure government stability, handed over the arrangement of agricultural matters to a party which made many obscure, ill-considered promises that in the election campaign were sharply criticized by the MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum] and these, through making uncertainty a permanent factor, have caused grave damage to Hungarian agriculture. [applause] [passage omitted]

The Antall government is deferring its undeferrable tasks in the same manner as the Lazar, Grosz, and the Nemeth governments. [passage omitted]

[Antall] Mr. Chairman, esteemed Mr. Deputy, esteemed House, Peter Tolgyssy has given an effective oration, one which was rich in feeling, one which was unrealistic to a certain extent in matters concerning political rationality. [passage omitted] I will reply, and in my reply I will touch on a few issues which, to be frank, I consider ridiculous. One is freedom of the press. As long as the press can write what it writes, in the manner it does now, we Hungarian Democrats—or let me say it according to its common usage, Free Democrats—we Hungarian Democrats and our coalition partners can be reassured that there is full freedom of the press. If there were no press freedom, and if what was said in the press was not free, then nor would there be freedom in this parliament, and Peter Tolgyssy would have delivered this speech today under grave duress and grave threats. [laughter, applause] [passage omitted]

I would like to add: What kind of statement is it which says that after the government's first 100 days the country's moral, economic, and social situation is worse than it was on election day? Please, this is a simple statement, anyone could say it. Why does he believe that the country's moral state during these 100 days is worse? Is he thinking like Endre Ady [early 20th century poet], that summer is a great procurer? [laughter, applause] [passage omitted]

I think that in the very regrettable period of the election campaign, in the form of numerous manifestations which were issues not just of ethics but of etiquette, statements and comments were made with which very many of us did not agree. I believe that now, in this election struggle, fewer personal comments are being made, and I can calmly say that the political culture and political morality have improved in this period. This must be regarded as a result of parliamentarism. In other aspects, such statements lead nowhere.

Let us take the country's financial situation. Peter Tolgyssy also knows very well that at the end of April, Hungary was characterized by a collapse of the financial balance, a lack of confidence, a withdrawal of deposits, but this has been reversed. Now we are in a much better situation. We have set off on a path which is precisely the result of confidence.

Of course, the country is in a grave economic situation. We have never denied this. Nor is it true that we did not say that Hungary is in a serious situation. When we spoke about a program, which could be qualified, then we spoke of a three-year program or a government period, and not of the first months. So, from the outset, I do not consider it justified or correct to make such statements in this form. For precisely this reason, this cannot yield results; it cannot be of of use. I could safely say that it would erode confidence in the country if we were to take such statements too seriously.

The new parliament and government have realized, amid settled circumstances, the change of system at the top of state life. In the spirit of national agreement, parliament, including the coalition parties, through a joint decision, elected the president of the republic; however, internal political problems arose as a result of a referendum intiative.

The entire change of system took place peacefully, without any force. This is an achievement for all Hungarians, for which we can be proud. Our foreign partners have spoken with appreciation of the Hungarian nation's maturity. I can also say that every party has a role in the fact that we, here in parliament now, despite our internal arguments and differences of view, in a party political sense are much closer to the party structures of established democracies, to this system, than our neighbors or other countries from among the former communist ocuntries. Thus, I do not believe that the situation analysis contained in the interpellation satisfactorily reflects the country's political situation. [passage omitted]

Finally, the third point asked for the working out of the three-year economic program—this is what Peter Tolgyssy referred to. The government discussed the economic program at its session today, together with the general program, and the special Council of Ministers session today approved this. The final drafting of this will be done in the next two days, incorporating the proposed modifications, and by the middle of next week, the comprehensive government program will be completed in printed form. It will, properly speaking, contain everything which will determine our work in the coming three-year period—that is, on the basis of which the individual ministries will work out their detailed work plans.

The collaboration of the work of state adminstration is also, naturally, a part of this. I believe that this all means that government in this period has done its work, taking into account what it could not have expected in advance, including the surroundings in which we live, including the European, the international and the economic environment, and all which we had to get acquainted with in our period of government.

I also wish to inform you that we will ask for a discussion of the following bills: issues regarding ownership rights to arable land, a ban on dishonest market conduct, setting prices, the law on strate finances, the law on the system of taxation and on duties, a new bankruptcy law, the legal frameworks for the program of employees' ownership of shares, the law on privatization procedures, the regulation of local tax systems and financial resources for self-governments, the energy-policy concept, and as part of this the structural reorganization of coal mining, and a new investment bill for the regulation of foreign investments, (?not to) list those which government in part has handed over, and those which it soon will put before parliament.

What is of greater essence, which I wanted to say, is that government, at its session today, approved the text of the full, comprehensive, government program, and it will make it public next week. The government spokesman and two state secretaries gave a press briefing on the main principles of this at 1100 today.

I believe that preparation of these bills and the work related to this indicate the activity of governmen. They also indicate that amid extremely unfavorable conditions—calmly accepting comparison with any former socialist country, with any government from among our neighbors—we have led the country in this period so that Hungary, now, has been able to maintain its solvency; it has been able to maintain its political stability, and in such a serious, crisis-ridden period, too, I believe we can show the Hungarian people a future. Everyone, of course, is aware that at least one-and-a-half, maybe two difficult years are ahead of the country in the period of transformation, for which the country needs a rallying of forces—mainly faith and confidence—so that we are able to carry this out toegther.

Not one government can carry out this task in such circumstances if it does not gain the necessaary support. I have given this reply to the question of the highly esteemed deputy. I believe that posing the question in this form—and I am not saying this with relevance to today's case, but to the future—was not a typical interpellation on the part of the deputy. It woud be much more suited to a wide-ranging, general parliamentary discussion. I, on my part, would agree that the Hungarian National Assembly should holding comprehensive debates, if possible every one or two weeks, whether the subject is foreign policy, finances, or cultural policy. Let us set aside time for this, because in this manner we would be able to dispel much more rapidly the misunderstandings, and I believe that such debates would serve to reassure the country, much more than those which are necessary, but which we perhaps carry out in too much detail.

I ask the National Assembly to approach the question by considering this information, and to take cognisance of the completion of the program, as well as its publication next week. I am certain that my highly esteemed fellow deputy, by virtue of his position, cannot accept my reply. Despite that, I believe that the National Assembly should consider accepting my reply, in this form, to the interpellation. Thank you. [applause]

Prime Minister Defends Government Practices

LD1809181790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1214 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Excerpts" of interpelletion in the National Assembly by Deputy Attila Karoly Soos on behalf of the Alliance of Free Democrats, with reply by Premier Jozsef Antall in Budapest—live]

[Excerpts] [Soos] Esteemed Mr. Chairman, Esteemed Mr. Prime Minster, esteemed House. An important element of the change of system would be a clear separation between three elements of government leadership: the government parties, the government, and the government's administrative apparatus. The earlier intertwinings of these—the handling of government affairs as a party issue, the forced or voluntary activity of state officials as party functionaries—was one of the important and extremely unpopular characteristics of the former system. The Nemeth government took, only after autumn 1989, rather hesitant steps toward changing this situation, which characterizes one-party dictatorships and party-states.

The country expected considerable further steps in this sphere from the Antall government. Instead of this, however, we are witnessing a virtual reversal, a new intertwining of the government parties—mainly the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and the state.

I would like to speak about this in terms of three points. First, it has again become customary for government intentions and measures to be announced at news conferences staged by the government parties. This practice is well known from the past. It has always aroused revulsion in our country. Especially revolting is a subcategory of this which developed in the 1980's, and which has now been taken over by the Antall government: in this the popular government, measures are presented at party forums, as party achievements. I can refer here to the creation of the office for small ventures, which was presented at an MDF news conference, and the press, misunderstanding the matter, wrote that MDF was establishing an office for small ventures—however, it was the government which set it up. The misunderstanding by the press stemmed from the event, however, which could be misconstrued. Thus the popular government measures are announced at party forums, yet the unpopular measures—for example price increases—at

variance with this are presented as mesures of constraint, not by the party but by the government, indeed by parliament if this were possible.

Second, alongside the mixing-up of party and government matters—a practice which is no less incorrect—is the confusing intertwining between the government apparatus and government's political leadership. It is known that in a democratic, multiparty system, the government's and the individual ministries' policies are represented in the ministry by three peoples: the minister, the political state secretary—that is, his political deputy—and also by the press spokesman. That is all. No one else. They are the politicians; everyone else is a civil servant, and expert. [passage omitted]

The current Hungarian practice is directly the opposite of that of democratic countries. It is enough to read, for example, the 24 August issue of MAGYAR HIRLAP, where three government officials speak simultaneously about the government's and a ministry's policy, or to mention yesterday's "Close of the Day" [television program] when Istvan Bethlen, in agreement with me, objected to the fact that the Finance Ministry was represented by the administrative state secretary in a political debate.

Third, what is even more frightening than the mixing-up of the governing party and government, as well as the government and the administrative apparatus—and what embodies one of the most important characteristics of the party-state—is when representatives of government office, who emphatically do not hold political jobs, step forth in their official function as party people. On 1 August, for example, the administrative state secretary of the Ministry of Justice, and one week later the head of the office for small ventures, took part in MDF news conferences, and there they spoke to the press about issues related to their official function. Mr. Prime Minister knows just as well as I do that this action—which, by the way, is contrary to the stipulations of the 21st clause of the bill on the legal status of public officials, which the government submitted last week—is inconceivable in democratic countries. It is also apparent that if this becomes practice, what will logically follow is compulsory membership in the governing party for ministry officials, the wearing of party emblems, being subject to party discipline, and so on. This is exactly what the country would like to be freed from.

I ask Mr. Prime Minister: Does he consider the listed phenomena, which I have criticized as being overly familiar intertwinings, to be normal? Can they be maintained? If he does not consider these normal, maintainable, what does he intend to do for the purpose of abolishing them? [applause]

[Antall] Mr Speaker, esteemed Mr. Deputy, Esteemed House. I think that the interpellation of Mr. Deputy Karoly Soos has an introductory part which might very well exert a strange influence in this dull weather after lunch; furthermore, to compare a parliamentary government with a one-party system and a one-party government—whether or not in a party state—is such an insinuation, such a distortion, that it would be unworthy to respond to it in detail. In spite of this, however, there are points in his interpellation that I agree with. First of all, the interpenetration between state and party has not appeared in this form during our government—thus I do not regard it as necessary to reply to these things at all. I will, however, answer his concrete questions, point by point. It has become a habit to announce government intentions and measures at government party programs and press briefings. [passage omitted]

There is no obstacle in constitutional law or in customary law anywhere preventing politicians in a multiparty government from announcing government decisions at the appropriate time and place, be it an academic year opening ceremony at a university or anything similar. Thus it is not in conflict with the Constitution or the house order or the customs. [passage omitted]

The other thing is that, apart from such a confusion of party and government matters, shady interpenetrations between the government apparatus and the government's political leadership are nonetheless a wrong practice. I believe it is not necessary to analyze these qualifications. Karoly Soos says: It is known that in democratic, multiparty states the policy of the government or individual ministries is represented by three people in the ministries: the minister, his political deputy—the political state secretary—and the spokesman, and no one else. [passage omitted]

It is the minister who represents it, in the spirit of the minister's responsibility; the political state secretary possesses the legal grounds for this. The government spokesman, however, cannot represent policy in the ministry, as he is a civil servant, independent of where he works now or in the future, on the basis of the public service law. The government spokesman—just like anyone authorized by the minister—can speak about a political issue on his behalf, on his authorization or at his order. [passage omitted]

If the minister authorizes the civil servant to make a statement, then he may do this. Not speaking on general political questions but about a policy adopted by the government, the civil servant can, as long as this particular government is in power, realize the decisions of this government and make a statement on the relevant question. Civil servants do not have to be removed with a change of government; in a constitutional order, it is clear to everyone that the civil servant is carrying out his tasks by decree of the minister and on the basis of the assignation of the minister.

We especially called the attention of the members of the government to a bad practice which has recently evolved, which has its own causes during the period of transition. In other words, the press expects information,

and on the basis of their obligation to give information journalists meet heads of deparments, and deputies of ministries, they very often give statements. I also disagree—and here I agree with the esteemed deputy—that it is wrong for too many people to give statements in a ministry. As far as it is possible, the minister has to define a circle who will be authorized to give briefings on the questions concerning the ministry. Generally this person is the spokesman. I would be very surprised if a different view from this one prevails.

Finally, about the mix-up between the government party, the government, and the official apparatus. I agree with the esteemed deputy in that government officials should not participate in party meetings, and should not give statements. They can be listened to as experts, but they should not participate in party meetings along with officials of the administration, ministers, or political state secretaries, and they should not give statements. With regard to this, I can say that a clear discrimination, in the appropriate form, has not yet evolved in the past period. I can, however, reply to the question that I do not agree with it—we have taken measures in this direction, and I earlier drew their attention to the fact that they should participate only as experts.

In accordance with this, I was honestly surprised when the SZDSZ [Alliance of Free Democrats] convened a public security forum to which it invited captains of the police. Contrary to the principles considered correct by both of us they even resented—and also said this on television—that this was impossible, dictatorial, and smacked of the party state, and that the interior minister and the national [police] commander did not give their consent that in a party-style meeting organized by the SZDSZ the police captains should be able to participate. Well, I think that the SZDSZ organization should have felt that this was incorrect. I emphasize this again, from the aspect of the joint stance.

Finally I would like to refer to a question. The presently valid laws regarding government parties and the opposition also state something in a certain sense. That is, they state that the parties in power have to rely on the government experts when they form their policies within the deputy group. In accoradance with this, the relevant law prescribes that the deputy groups of parties, in the interests of professionally grounding their work, are entitled to claim consultant fees. The amount of the annual consultant fee, per deputy group, is an amount equivalent to the basic annual fee of twenty deputies. In the case of the government parties it is 25 percent of the annual basic fee per deputy; and in the case of opposition parties this is 50 percent of the annual basic fee. It is precisely the opposition, therefore, that gains greater financial support, for the reason that on professional questions the government party has an advantage over the opposition. [passage omitted]

To summarize all this, my reply to the question is that a comparison with the party state is naturally not true. This being an election month, however, these allegations are quite understandable. Besides this, though, I agree that government officials should not participate in and make statements in party meetings and on behalf of parties. Thank you.

National Assembly Passes Privatization Bill

LD1809153790 Budapest MTI in English 1435 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—During the Hungarian parliament's Tuesday session in Budapest, the bill on the privatization of commercial, catering and servicing companies was carried with a vote of 180:101, and 32 abstentions. Given the 91 proposed amendments, the voting lasted more than two hours.

Before the end of the ballot, MP Matyas Eorsi of the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ] took the floor and announced that a formal error overlooked in the discussion of the proposed amendments and the subsequent voting would make the law unconstitutional. (The question was whether the legislation of the right to preemption violates the proprietory right or not in the course of privatization.)

Eorsi's contribution elicited a lengthy debate, cut short twice by Presiding Gyorgy Szabad. As the government and the governing parties were uncompromising, Peter Tolgyessy of the AFD said that the case should be transferred to the relevant court, being such a gross violation of the constitution.

Parliament Suspended Until 15 Oct

LD1809182390 Budapest MTI in English 1716 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—In the absence of a quorum, the plenary session of the Hungarian parliament was suspended on Tuesday evening.

The session was suspended after it became clear that only 111 MPs, less than a third of the total number were present in the assembly hall.

Due to the local elections, parliament will take recess until October 15, 1990.

Government Approves 'National Renewal' Program

LD1809143390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] [Announcer] The government is holding a session simultanously with the parliament session. Gabor Bankuti reports:

[Bankuti] This morning the government approved the three-year program of national renewal [nemzeti megujhodas] at an extraordinary session. This program will be published toward the end of the month together with the 15 main points of the national economic reform. The

program, under the pressure of necessity, is just a framework. It sets the main directions and means of action in a bit more detailed and moderate way than the government program in May, but no fully detailed program drawn up with concrete figures for three years can be given yet. On the one hand the economic situation is changing rapidly, said State Secretary Gyorgy Matolcsy at a press briefing; on other hand, reforms should not be hurried.

Each of the 15 main points of the reform formulates a set of topics, and Hungarian and foreign experts will be asked to help and cooperate on each of these topics. On the basis of this, the concrete reform plans will come into existence within four to five months. Some of the sets of topics, on the basis of the 15 main points of the national economic reform, are the following: housing economy, where privatization has to be connected to renewal. Privatization, ownership, and development represent a separate topic. An independent program is under way for the reform of social insurance, the pension system, and health affairs. An independent point is the creation of convertibility. State Secretary for Finance Katalin Botos has said it can be implemented within a short time. She stressed that it was necessary to take the equilibrium of the payments balance as the point of departure and at the same time curb inflation. For this reason, filtering out money not backed by performance will have to be curbed in the future, too. Ventures within the limits of possibilities should be given maximum help; the sources, however, determine the possibilities.

It was also said that soon the government would publish a series of white books about the present economic situation. The first volume, which will expound the circumstances and reasons of the accumulation of debts in detail, will appear shortly. The briefing on the government session is still going on.

Officials Preview Government's Economic Program

LD1809145690 Budapest MTI in English 1357 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The Hungarian Government's three-year programme, which was approved and finalized at the extraordinary meeting the Council of Ministers held on Tuesday, will be made public within the next seven to ten days, government spokesman Mr Balazs Laszlo told a news conference following the meeting.

Mr Gyorgy Matolcsy, parliamentary state secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, said the programme, which goes under the name "The Programme of National Renewal", contains the main directions of the development of society and the economy.

The document should not be regarded as final, the state secretary said, because the Hungarian economic environment is changing almost from day to day.

The ministries will be given a core of guidelines around which they will develop detailed action programmes six months ahead.

Along with the programme, the government will make public the 15 main targets and areas of the national economic reform.

Working groups will be assigned the task of developing a detailed programme for each specific area.

Priority areas of the reform include housing management, privatization, streamlining the banking system, the capital market, and the reform of the social security and pension systems.

The programme will go hand in hand with an analysis of the situation of the past ten years, a job already in progress. The findings of this will be published in a series of white books planned to run to 8 or 10 volumes.

"We hope that in a few years' time, we'll have a structure which runs on south European lines and rests on small and medium-size businesses", Mr Matolcsy said.

Ms Katalin Botos, parliamentary state secretary at the Ministry of Finance, said a balanced current account was a sine qua non of the economic policy.

She especially emphasized the importance of the country's foreign economic orientation and the continuation of the import liberalization policy, which must go hand in hand with a consistent anti-inflationary policy.

Ms Botos said one important aspect of implementing the economic policy aims was to stimulate private individuals' savings.

The Ministry of Finance proposes boosting individuals savings via various tax preferences and by abolishing the current ceiling on savings deposit interests.

Finance Minister Defends State Budget

LD1809133990 Budapest MTI in English 1229 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 18 (MTI)—Prior to the commencement of proceedings on Tuesday, parliament witnessed an exchange between Minister of Finance Ferenc Rabar and Attila Karoly Soos, the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ] MP. The minister of finance, reflected on the contribution made by the MP on Monday, in which Mr Soos had termed the government decision of September 9th on amending the state budget to be unlawful. Mr Rabar set forth the position of the government. Accordingly, the government had not violated the law, its steps were in harmony with the constitution and the legal measures in force. However, Mr Soos continued to uphold the view of the AFD parliamentary group, according to which the government had violated the Constitution.

The vote on the law dealing with privatization began afterwards. MPs had to decide whether to approve or

reject 91 amendments. This was then to be followed by a vote on the government report.

If time permits after the lengthy voting procedure, MP's are to continue a debate over the draft parliamentary resolution which was broken off on Monday. At the heart of this debate is the degree of state support to be provided to organizations not registered as parties.

However, as interpellations and questions to ministers are also on the approved agenda, parliament will probably have to postpone the debates over three independent motions aimed at amending the house rules, namely the bills on immunity, amendments to the legal relationship of the professional armed forces and its relevant bodies to the state, and the discussing of the parliamentary proposal to set up a committee to examine political responsibility.

Foreign Trade Statistics Published

AU1809103490 Budapest MTI in English 1648 GMT 13 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, 13 Sep (MTI)—According to information supplied to MTI by the Ministry of International Economic Relations, the rate of growth in the dollar surplus of Hungary's foreign trade showed a slowing in August.

While the surplus had previously risen by a monthly 60-80 million dollars, the figure was at only 27 million dollars in August. The decline is most probably related to the cuts in Soviet oil deliveries to Hungary, and the Persian Gulf crisis. Over the next months, purchases of oil on the free market, valued at more than 100 million dollars, and cereals imports valued at several tens of millions of dollars, necessary to make up for damage caused by the drought, could do further damage to the good results achieved in foreign trade to date.

By the end of August, the surplus stood at 627.5 million dollars, compared with 112.7 million dollars for the corresponding period in 1989. This year, exports were valued at 3,900 million dollars, 15.5 per cent more than the performance in the first eight months of last year. At the same time, imports rose by only 0.2 per cent this year, with a total value of 3,273 million dollars.

Exports to the FRG showed the largest growth, going up by 43.4 per cent and being valued at 884.1 million dollars, while imports were valued at 828.4 million dollars, a growth of a mere 1.6 per cent.

At the same time, the rouble-accounting turnover declined considerably. The value of exports stood at 3,385 million roubles, a drop of 29.2 per cent. Imports were valued at 3,712 million roubles, a drop of 15.8 per cent compared with the first eight months of 1989. While the surplus at this time in 1989 totalled 375 million roubles, the balance now shows a deficit of 327 million Roubles. It is striking that the rouble deficit, formerly only 145 million roubles, more than doubled in one month. A major deficit was noted in trade with the GDR, in view of the cancellation of Hungarian export contracts. While the value of Hungarian exports was 463.9 million roubles over eight months, a drop of some 24 per cent, imports were valued at 650.2 million Roubles, a decline of only 7.4 per cent compared with the corresponding period in 1989.

Socialist Party Sells Off All Newspapers

LD1409192190 Budapest MTI in English 1425 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Budapest, September 14, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The opposition Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) [MSZP] has now sold off all eleven papers it offered for public bidding.

Eight of them were sold off earlier this year, with the remaining three going under the hammer this week.

PETOFI NEPE, a Kecskemet paper, and the Bekes County NEPUJSAG were bought by the Austrian firm standard for 40 million forints a piece, while DELMAGYARORSZAG of Szeged becomes the property of DELMAGYARORSZAG, PLC [expansion not known], for 56 million forints.

The eight papers the HSP sold off previously were bought by FVD [expansion not known] Funk Verlag of Austria, Krone Verlag, Austria, Associated Newspapers of Great Britain, and WAZ [expansion not known] of the FRG.

The upper limit for the foreign stake in the papers was fixed at 49 per cent.

It is up to the owners to decide in what corporate form they will run the papers.

With one exception, the Hungarian owners are not yet known, they will be selected by the foreign buyers.

The HSP has offered the 530 million forints it cashed on the sale of the papers for public use.

They intend setting up a charity to assist pensioners on low incomes, help with the costs of medical treatment for sick children, and offer scholarships to gifted young people.

Leaders' Meeting Participants Comment to PAP

LD1809221190 Warsaw PAP in English 2125 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Warsaw, Sept. 18—Following are statements made for PAP by some of the participants in today's political meeting at Primate Glemp's residence in Warsaw:

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki: I think that a fairly broad exchange of views took place in both parts of the meeting, but no decisions could have been taken. This was assumed in advance.

We discussed problems pertaining to the economic and international situation of Poland and to establishment of the best possible schedule for parliamentary and presidential elections. I do not think we have brought our stances closer.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp: I think we fulfilled our intention of the service to society, the nation. I can give no concrete facts of details. I provided the opportunity for forming a climate for deeper reflection. I am very satisfied with the meeting.

President Wojciech Jaruzelski: I consider the meeting very constructive. First of all we had the opportunity to exchange views. I think we have come closer to the solutions which may be considered optimum in this situation.

Sejm speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz: The meeting was very interesting, although it was not anything some people had expected.

Senate Speaker Andrzej Stelmachowski: No settlements were planned, only exchange of views (was). Decisions will be taken by the Sejm.

Zbigniew Bujak (leader of the Citizens Movement Democratic Action): The first step towards agreement on the rules we are to practice in electoral campaign was made.

Jozef Zych (chairman of the Polish Peasant Party caucus): It was a very important thing that during the meeting discussed were not only political problems but economic ones as well.

Much time was devoted to (the problem of) [the] election of [the] president and future parliament. The majority, I think, opted for holding presidential election this year and parliamentary one next year.

Here is what some other participants in the meeting told newsmen of the press:

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa: It was only a talk, just a talk. No settlements were made, and could not have been made. Things get more clear as concerns (electoral) schedule. Various arguments were voiced, in various directions.

Minister Aleksander Hall: It seems there were two concepts in the group. The first one—first presidential election, then parliamentary one, and the second concept—simultaneous elections.

All are aware that these events should take place in the coming months. General Jaruzelski showed his openness.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski (leader of the Centre Alliance): It was a discussion meeting, [a] very interesting one. The differences have diminished.

Secretary of State Jozef Czyrek: It was settled that decisions on the date and method of President Jaruzelski's resignation will be taken during the Sejm debate on September 20. The president took a stand he will abide by the parliament's decisions. [passage omitted]

Jaruzelski To Ask Sejm To Shorten His Tenure

LD1809220290 Warsaw PAP in English 2133 GMT 18 Sep 90

["President-statement"—PAP headline]

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 18—In reference to the meeting hosted by Poland's primate [Cardinal Jozef Glemp] on September 18, the president intends to convey a letter to the Sejm (lower house) speaker in which, concerned to prevent unnecessary social emotions and willing to develop democracy in the functioning of our state, he will ask the Sejm to terminate the presidential term of office according to the constitutional parliamentary procedure and to define the date of termination in a way which will enable him to transfer the office he holds to a president chosen in general election, the press spokesman for the Polish president announced today.

PSL Publishes Stand on Jaruzelski, Elections

LD1809184490 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] The supreme executive committee of the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] has published its stance on the presidential elections. National dignity requires common protection of the good name and authority of the highest state offices, it emphasizes. Acting on this assumption, the PSL believes the commencement of the presidential campaign to be premature, in view of the failure to implement necessary changes to the Constitution and to adopt an electoral law in consultation with the public. The PSL intends to nominate a candidate to the presidency when the appropriate legal timetable has been established.

In a published statement, however, the political council of the Confederation for an Independent Poland [KPN], emphasizes that General Jaruzelski cannot hold the office of president, and has to go as soon as possible. The KPN announces that a blockade of the Belweder Palace will commence tomorrow. In the opinion of the KPN political council, the new president should be elected for an interim period by the National Assembly, and be at the disposal of the future Sejm, based on free elections.

Democratic Right Forum Supports Mazowiecki

LD1609204290 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] The Forum of the Democratic Right states that it is prepared to officially submit Tadeusz Mazowiecki as a candidate to the post of head of state. Taking part in a meeting of the forum were Senator Stanislaw Stomma, and Ministers Aleksander Hall and Tadeusz Syryjczyk.

Michnik on Solidarity Divisions, Walesa Candidacy

LD1709131190 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1005 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] [Announcer] Adam Michnik was a guest of the Polish-Czech Solidarity Festival which ended in the Polish and Czech town of Cieszyn yesterday. Here is what he had to say about the Polish-Czech border:

[Begin Michnik recording] Cieszyn is a special town in Poland. The place offers an enormous chance for Poland. It can become for Poland what Strasbourg is for France—a meeting place of two nations, two cultures, and two states. [end recording]

[Announcer] And now Adam Michnik's remarks on divisions in Solidarity and Lech Walesa's candidacy for president.

[Begin Michnik recording] I think that what has happened is wrong. I think these divisions have weakened Poland and I am personally and politically angry with Lech Walesa about this. I am angry with him about this. But that is the reality, one cannot feel offended, and one has to learn the art of life in pluralism—that one can be an opponent but not an enemy, that one can differ politically but not simultaneously discuss things in a way that will brutalize public life. I think that Lech constitutes enormous national capital. That is a great chance for Poland on the condition that he himself is going to know how to utilize that chance. [end recording]

Citizens Committee Reaction to 'Solidarity' Split

AU1709100190 Warsaw RZECZPSOPOLITA in Polish 10 Sep 90 p 2

[Interview with Wojciech Wlodarczyk, secretary of the Lech Walesa Citizens Committee, by Tomasz Roguski; place and date not given: "Closer to the Center Than to ROAD"]

[Text] [Roguski] The "Solidarity" movement has split. How have the citizens committees reacted to this?

[Wlodarczyk] There were signs that a split would occur for some time. Even before the emergence of the Citizens Movement Democratic Action [ROAD], the committees were being strongly influenced by the Center Accord. Its influence is still significant, and is sometimes a predominant one. For example, the entire Siedlce Voivodship Citizens Committee has joined the Center Accord.

Other tendencies are also in evidence. In Konin Voivodship, there were two structures in existence until now: One of them is linked to the "Solidarity" Regional Administration and Christian National Union groups, and the other structure is closer to the citizens movement "Ideology." After the leaders of the second structure went over to ROAD, lower-level citizens committees began to go their own way. Similar developments are occurring within the Lodz Voivodship Citizens Committee.

[Roguski] Are there regions where ROAD's influence is particularly strong?

[Wlodarczyk] I do not think so. It seemed that ROAD held a particularly strong position in the Lublin Citizens Committee, but the local committees rejected its influence. In Wroclaw Voivodship, where Wladyslaw Frasyniuk held a strong position, the local committees, together with the "Solidarity" factory commissions, ROAD activities have not met with a favorable response. Support is being voiced for Lech Walesa, and criticism is being leveled at Wladyslaw Frasyniuk's activities.

[Roguski] Is criticism of ROAD automatically accompanied by support for the Center Accord?

[Wlodarczyk] Not always, but criticism of ROAD is usually accompanied by support for Walesa. To a large extent, the criticism converges with the content of the Center Accord program, but it is not identical to it.

[Roguski] Does this mean that the Center Accord occupies a dominant position within the citizens movement?

[Wlodarczyk] The citizens committees always found the Center Accord program very attractive. For a long time now, local activists have considered acceleration necessary. Currently, the grouping does possess a substantial influence. However, committees that reject ROAD are often not completely unequivocal in the support that they lend to the Center Accord.

[Roguski] So, will the committees become a "third force" in politics?

[Wlodarczyk] There were always tendencies in that direction within the citizens movement, and they can be encountered all over Poland nowadays. However, I do not know whether this could actually come about. The committees nominated many people to, for example, local government posts. Those who have remained on the committees, and who are excellent in conducting local affairs, will surely not be in a position to draw up a program for the country as a whole.

[Roguski] Will we probably have presidential elections soon? Who, in your opinion, will the committees support?

[Wlodarczyk] Judging by the views that the citizens committee secretariat is receiving from the regions, I think that a clear majority of committees will give their backing to Lech Walesa.

Deputies Club Debate 'Political Timetable'

AU1709115090 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 12 Sep 90 p 2

['K.G.'-signed report: "When Will the Elections Be Held?"]

[Text] The most important item on the Sejm's agenda will be the debate on the political timetable, stated Professor Bronislaw Geremek at last Tuesday's meeting of the Citizens' Deputies Club. A debate to agree on a political timetable was proposed by Deputy Aleksander Malachowski.

The most important issues that Sejm deputies will have to decide revolve around the current parliamentary term and the adoption of new parliamentary and presidential election laws. There is also the problem of how and in what way the Constitution is to be amended.

At present, there is no agreement on any of these issues. The Citizens' Deputies Club is becoming increasingly fragmented. It already has mutually competing groups such as the Center Accord and Citizens Movement Democratic Action and this means that the voting power of the club is diluted, said Olga Krzyzanowska, Sejm deputy marshal.

In his speech, Bronislaw Geremek elaborated various alternatives that might arise from the upcoming Sejm session.

The most important item of the political timetable is to ensure that the Sejm concludes its term of office. The Constitution provides that a decision to dissolve the Sejm also means a dissolution of both houses of parliament. The only way the Sejm can be dissolved is by its own decision. This requires a consensus, an agreement between groups that together constitute a majority in the Sejm. Certain signals indicate that such a consensus could be reached, said Geremek. There was even talk of a date, namely, 28 February 1991. A decision to dissolve would have to be taken in the light of the Sejm's essential commitments, said Geremek. The Sejm will have to pass new laws for the Sejm, Senate, and presidential elections. It must also concentrate on passing the most urgently needed economic and local authority laws, as well as the really crucial law on the budget. The government has said that there are some 70 outstanding bills that it regards as urgent business, said Geremek.

In the coming debates, the deputies will have to tackle the issue of a new constitution and especially the question: Who is to pass it? Is it to be the current parliament or a new one? The nonrepresentative nature of the present Sejm would seem to rule it out, because the legitimacy of any new constitution that is passed by it could be put in doubt. Nonetheless, there were also arguments in favor of the present parliament. Without a constitution, fresh elections would create a constitutional vacuum and nobody would know under what constitutional system the new parliamentary and presidential elections were being held.

Apart from this, it is questionable whether the present parliament has the capacity to pass a new constitution. The Sejm and Senate constitution commissions are working on this and their first drafts will be available in October. According to Geremek, it is possible that they could become part of the legislative process. During next week's political debate the Sejm Constitutional Commission chaired by Bronislaw Geremek will propose that the National Assembly adopts a new constitution and that this decision be subsequently confirmed by a national referendum.

Another key issue is the election date. From all economic, political, and social aspects, it would be best if parliamentary elections took place at the same time as presidential ones. However, this does not necessarily imply that presidential elections should be postponed.

It is still possible that Poland will have to go for a solution that has been adopted by other Central European countries, namely, a transition parliament and president, concluded Geremek.

The two-hour discussion that followed the speech did not add any new elements to the problem. Andrzej Stelmachowski, Senate marshal suggested that parliament should dissolve itself after it had approved the annual budget.

Deputy Jacek Szymanderski protested against prolonging the term of the present Sejm and the notion of remaining until completing "essential commitments." Given the collapse of the "roundtable" accord, there was no excuse to delay any longer, he argued.

Deputy Grazyna Staniszewska argued from a different stand point. The Sejm had to concentrate on its legislation program, because without the necessary legislation, 1991 would become be a transition year, she said.

A tangible result of last Tuesday's Citizens' Deputies Club meeting was the proposal to create a joint Sejm-Senate-government commission which would select the most urgent legislation.

Splits in Citizens' Deputies Club Reported

AU1609201390 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 2 Sep 90 p 2

['W.Ma'-signed report: "Divisions in the Citizens' Deputies Club"]

[Text] The Citizens' Deputies Club currently has 254 members (98 senators and 156 Sejm deputies). In July 1989, the club had 259 members (99 senators and 160 deputies). Senator Stanislaw Majdanski (went to the Polish Peasant Party) and, somewhat earlier, Deputies J. Rozek, R. Bartoszcze, T. Kaszubski, and more recently R. Bruzy, have left the club. The club has an unchanged (compared with July 1989) presidium that is headed by Chairman Bronislaw Geremek and First Deputy Chairman Andrzej Wielowieyski.

As a body, the club is undergoing a distinct crisis. This was stated by Deputy Olga Krzyzanowska at the club's meeting last Tuesday. Less than 100 deputies turned up for the first meeting of the club after the parliamentary

summer recess. Lack of unity within the club lowers its effectiveness and strength and this has become evident during joint meetings of all the various parliamentary clubs' presidiums, she said.

It is hard to be categorical about the new splits in the club. It is possible that the old divisions may begin to weaken in the face of two strong post-"Solidarity" groupings—namely, the Center Accord and the Citizens Movement Democratic Action [ROAD]. At present, approximately 40 deputies have joined ROAD. Nonetheless, Senator Jaroslaw Kaczynski has been able to collect 120 signatures among club deputies in support of his petition calling for the resignation of President Jaruzelski. Does this imply that the Center Accord can count on the support of the same number of deputies? Bronislaw Geremek has estimated that approximately 50 club deputies support the Center Accord. The Center Accord claims that 65 Citizens' Deputies Club members support it. They also say that another 60 deputies have expressed strong feelings of support for the Center Accord. Dariusz Dziubek is the Center Accord coordinator in the Citizens' Deputies Club.

This overall picture has been made even more complicated by the recent formation of a privatization and economic reform lobby called the Social Movement for Economic Initiatives (Spring 92) which attracts deputies from both the Center Accord (A. Machalski) and ROAD (G. Staniszewska).

Upcoming Sejm Session Agenda To Include 4 Laws

LD1709205390 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Sejm Speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, told journalists today that the agenda of the forthcoming Sejm sitting on 20-21 September will include four laws. These legal deeds will concern: the method of electing the president; two laws on the electoral law—two drafts which contradict one another; and a law on the method of adopting the new Constitution. The draft law on the president contains three alternatives for nominating candidates by public organizations, political parties, trade unions, and groups of unaffiliated citizens. The first law on the electoral law, submitted by OKP [Citizens Parliamentary Club] deputies, anticipates a mixed form of elections. Half the seats would be filled through majority elections, the other half through proportional elections. The second proposed law anticipates only proportional elections.

Radio, TV Committee Leading Posts Abolished

LD1809195590 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1730 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Changes in the Radio and Television Affairs Committee: The prime minister has accepted Karol Sawicki's resignation from the post of director general. Editor Sawicki will lead the "Day Panorama" team.

And the second change. In connection with the abolition of the post, Andrzej Bober has also been recalled from the post of director general. Editor Bober will continue to present "Letters About the Economy." He also received an invitation from Lech Walesa to join the citizens committee. We have been informed that due to the envisaged changes in the organization of the committee, the posts of directors general will be abolished. Therefore no appointments to these posts are envisaged.

Szucki Elected Chairman of Soldiers' Trade Union

LD1709180190 Warsaw PAP in English 1532 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Lublin, Sept. 17—A general meeting of delegates of the Union of Soldiers of the National Armed Forces (NSZ) was held here. The organization was set up recently and aims to restore dignity to the name of the NSZ, to examine history, to consolidate traditions of the NSZ and to ask proper authorities to give war veterans' rights to NSZ soldiers.

Participants in the general meeting elected the main board of the union, with Bohdan Szucki becoming its chairman and Marek Grzesiuk its vice chairman.

The meeting issued an appeal saying this: "After 45 years of persecutions and humiliation conditions emerged making it possible to restore dignity, good name and memory to the NSZ and their soldiers. Efficient organization of the union and reaching statutory goals are up to us, all NSZ soldiers, our initiative and actions."

Mazowiecki, Walesa Attend Workers' Pilgrimage

LD1609204990 Warsaw PAP in English 1959 GMT 16 Sep 90

[Text] Czestochowa, Sept. 16—The 8th pilgrimage of working people to Jasna Gora, central Poland, ended here today with a mass celebrated by Cardnial Henryk Gulbinowicz, chairman of the Polish Episcopate's Commission for Ministry of Working People.

Present were Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, senators and deputies and over 250,000 pilgrims from the whole of Poland.

Before the mass the congregation heard a letter from Pope John Paul II to working people.

A dozen or so banners of Solidarity regional and factory committees were consecrated.

At the end of the mass Cardinal Gulbinowicz read an act confiding working people to the care of Our Lady.

Group Concerned Over Growth of Unemployed

LD1709213590 Warsaw PAP in English 2035 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Gdansk, Sept. 17—The main board of the Polish Organization of the Unemployed conveyed to PAP a

statement in which it expressed its extreme concern over the quick increase of the number of jobless people which by official estimates is greater than 820 thousand today. This is twice the figure adopted in the prognoses of Vice Prime Minister Balcerowicz.

The growing impoverishment of increasingly wide social circles in Poland, who are deprived of their jobs and means to maintain themselves but, in turn, encumbered with debts which are hardly returnable, inevitably leads this country on the brink of a limit beyond which the only possibility is sharp public unrest, reads the statement addressed by the Organisation of the Unemployed, among others, to the Sejm speaker Mikolaj Kozakiewicz.

Amendments to Foreign Capital Law Near Completion

LD1709200390 Warsaw PAP in English 1808 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 17—The Agency for Foreign Investments issued about 2,000 permits for setting up companies with foreign capital in Poland from the start of its work until mid-September 1990, that is, over a year and a half. Unfortunately, only every second company operates (about 800 according to the GUS main statistical office). The initial capital of the currently operating joint ventures amounts to 250-300 million dollars. Small companies, with the capital of 50,000 dollars each, prevail. The capital came primarily from the FRG (41 per cent of the issued permits), 9.5 per cent form Sweden and over 7 per cent from Austria and the United States.

This information was presented to journalists today by chairman of the agency Zbigniew Piotrowski who said that work to amend the law on economic activity with the participation of foreign subjects neared completion on the government level. The main assumptions of the law boil down to the limitation of interference by the state administration both during issuing permits for investments and during the stage of the functioning of a company, to liberalization of the terms of the transfer of profits and dividends abroad and to competitive financial solutions (for instance, preferential tax reliefs).

Monument to Victims of Stalinism Defaced

LD1709212990 Warsaw PAP in English 1946 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Wroclaw, Sept. 17—Unknown perpetrators seriously damaged a monument to victims of Stalinism here today. They also stole a big bronze cross from the monument.

NATO Secretary General Woerner Continues Visit

Discusses Security With Jaruzelski

LD1509040190 Warsaw PAP in English 1728 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 14—Poland's President Wojciech Jaruzelski today received NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner.

The two discussed the role of the Warsaw Treaty and the North Atlantic Alliance in changing Europe, the overcoming of divisions on the continent and the shaping of an atmosphere of cooperation.

"Poland favours the further development of the Helsinki process leading to the construction of collective security in a uniting Europe. We express a conviction that even before the November meeting of the heads of CSCE-member states in Paris it will be possible to bring about the first agreements on reductions in conventional forces and further confidence and security building measures on the whole continent. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Jaruzelski and Woerner also discussed some aspects of relations between Poland and NATO.

Meets Walesa in Gdansk

LD1509184690 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 15 Sep 90

[Text] This afternoon Manfred Woerner, the NATO secretary general, flew to Malbork and from there, after having visited the castle and town, left for Gdansk. Punctually at 1600, Lech Walesa met the NATO secretary general at the Solidarity headquarters. After a meeting, which lasted more than an hour, Lech Walesa and his visitor said:

[Begin recording] [Woerner in English with superimposed Polish translation] We talked about the new challenges which are moving the new Europe away from military confrontation and toward new challenges. We have to fight against environmental degradation and for the economic renewal of East European countries.

[Walesa] I would like to add that we have really disarmed the alliances. The organization which you represent has contributed much to Europe and to the world. That sort of achievement is going to be needed today and for a long time still. It should be used. I am convinced that you, today looking for possibilities, will manage to serve the whole of Europe more. [end recording]

Poll Determines Opinions on 'Return to Europe'

LD1709201890 Warsaw PAP in English 1756 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 17—Asked what they understand when they speak of the return to Europe, more than 80 per cent of those polled by the Public Opinion Polling Centre (CBOS) said they mean full observance of human rights, freedom and public liberties, a full convertibility of the zloty, free elections and democratic methods of power wielding. A large number of expectations concerned also a new economic order.

Some 68.5 per cent of the polled pinned hopes that the return to Europe would mean getting rid of prejudices and ill will in relation to other nations and ethnic minorities.

The majority of the polled voiced an opinion that Poland will be a country to benefit most from the unification of Europe (40.7 per cent of such opinions) while 28.3 per cent claim tha Poland would gain little and lose quite a lot. Some 31 per cent of respondents had no firm opinion on the subject.

The general opinion is that mainly Germany and post-communist countries will benefit from the process while the industrialized non-European countries would stand losses.

Poland Seeks More Economic Assistance From EC

LD1709222990 Warsaw PAP in English 2135 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Text] Brussels, Sept. 17—The representative of the Polish mission at the EC conveyed today to the EC commission a memorandum from the Polish Government concerning the losses sustained by Poland in result of the Persian Gulf crisis.

The document includes a postulate to increase the EC economic assistance for Poland.

The document says that the losses sustained so far and still envisaged will amount to some 2.4 billion dollars.

Poland is included in the Phare programme of assistance for restructuring economy implemented by the 24-group and coordinated by the EC commission.

Vice President of the EC Commission Frans Andriessen is expected in Poland later this month and the question of possible greater assistance will probably be discussed then.

Report on Trade Relations With USSR

LD1809160590 Warsaw PAP in English 1538 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 18—A team of experts of the Polish Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations worked out a report on Polish-Soviet trade relations and presented it to newsmen today.

It will not be indiscreet to say that experts represented various opinions on specific issues, this being reflected in the report, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Marcin Swiecicki wrote in a preface.

The value of Polish-Soviet turnover in 1989 amounted to 12.7 billion rubles [R]. As much as 66 percent of Polish imports from the Soviet Union were raw materials. They were mostly balanced by exports of Polish processed goods (82 percent of total exports), including machines and equipment (64 percent), the report said.

Characteristic for mutual trade was coordination of supplies of goods at the central level. Since tasks determined by the centre were often ineffective for enterprises, supplies were partially financed by the state budget. Foreign trade did not stimulate specialization, effective production, the report stated.

The work continues on a new system of trade relations, to be based on accountings in convertible currencies and world prices. The resulting profits will be long-term, that is enterprises will be able to take their own initiatives and apply economic criteria. However, in a short run there are potential threats—Polish economy may suffer losses reaching from R1.2 to over 2 billion per year till about 1995.

Economic Cooperation Talks With CSFR Detailed

LD1409114590 Warsaw PAP in English 1050 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, Sept. 14—The results of the two-day talks between Polish Vice Prime Minister Jan Janowski and Czechoslovak Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, under the Polish-Czechoslovak Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation were described as a fiasco. Here is what Vice Prime Minister Janowski told PAP:

We believe our economies are complementary and the objective economic factors should promote mutual intensification of contacts. But this also requires suitable political and social conditions. This aspect of the issue is connected here with tourist traffic between our countries, rather sharply stopped during the martial law in Poland. We know that was a political decision demonstrating Czechoslovakia's distancing from Polish freedom movements. Now the Czechoslovak side declared "unequivocal separation from the unilateral decision by the Czechoslovak Government in 1981."

Here the convergence of our views ends. Further are disagreements, for one cannot accept the preconditions set towards the move, namely, the proposed currency exchange rate, though we admit the rate is now disadvantageous to Czechoslovakia, and we believe it should be determined by banks and settlements should follow free market rules.

Mazowiecki Receives Outgoing SFRY Ambassador

LD1509033190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2144 GMT 14 Sep 90

[Text] Warsaw, September 14 (TANJUG)—Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki today received Yugoslav Ambassador Branko Puharic in a farewell visit, during which he gave a positive assessment of Polish-Yugoslav cooperation, especially in the area of the economy.

Mazowiecki was interested in Yugoslavia's results in combating inflation and establishing a market economy. He said that he was looking forward to his meeting in Warsaw with Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic, who should visit Poland this autumn.

Stating Poland's interest in cooperation with the five-nation Danube-Adria group, Mazowiecki assessed that Poland might be a kind of bridge between the Baltic and southern [word indistinct] which would be in the interest of integration processes in Europe.

The Danube-Adria group includes Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

State Department Denial of Violations Welcomed

AU1909050190 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 15 Sep 90 p 1

[Dumitru Tinu article: "The State Department Denies"]

[Text] According to Associated Press, NESA (The News Bulletin of the White House), REUTER, AFP, and EFE, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher denied rumors that Romania had violated the UN embargo against Iraq. "There is no truth to reports that the State Department believes Romania is importing Iraqi oil or otherwise violating the sanctions" against Iraq, he said. "In fact," the spokesman pointed out, "Romania has been a strong supporter of the sanctions and has played a very positive role on many issues related to the Gulf crisis."

It was natural and right that this should happen. As a matter of fact, no one doubted that the U.S. State Department—which has been persistently cited in recent days by several news agencies as being in possession of proof that Romania imported oil from Iraq in violation of the Security Council resolutions—would deny such discreditable allegations, for the simple reason that they were false.

It is true that a more prompt reaction—for instance, immediately after the American news agency AP began circulating this gross lie—would have discouraged TV stations like NBC and CNN, followed by various other news agencies and newspapers, to follow suit and disseminate the respective allegations. Washington's prolonged silence contributed to the maintenance of a certain ambiguity which hurt Romania's image in the world. This delay is regrettable and incomprehensible for two reasons. On the one hand, it is clear that no other country was in a better position to exactly know all the movements inside and outside the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, one would have expected an immediate reply, in view of the fact that AP allowed itself to involve the prestige of such an institution as the State Department in the attempt to give some credibility to the false news it set in motion.

We should, however, consider the clear and categorical State Department statement in this respect as a proper gesture. The statement emphasized that "there is no truth to allegations that the U.S. Government believed that Romania imported oil from Iraq and—what beats all!—violated the embargo imposed by the Security Council, whose presidency was ensured at that time by our country, which has thus made a contribution—acknowledged and appreciated among UN circles—to drafting the text of the respective decision. This aspect is also emphasized in the statement made by the State Department spokesman, who said that, in fact, Romania has been a firm supporter of the sanctions from the very beginning and has played a very positive role on many issues related to the Gulf crisis.

The State Department's statement was necessary and can only be welcomed. However, it can only have a mending value. In this respect, great responsibility devolves on those who launched—in ill faith and out of a spirit of irresponsibility—false rumours aimed at slandering Romania. Because this is the real issue, these false allegations refer to a most topical international issue. The fact that certain news agencies promptly disseminated incriminating news about our country, without even a minimal check of their accuracy, should not come as a surprise to anyone. Maybe only such allegations fit the anti-Romanian diversion promoted by certain circles. When nothing new comes up, then some people mistake Bucharest for Budapest or Sofia, thus crediting the already agitated Romanian political-social scene with all the terrible things happening around the world. We are tempted to console ourselves with the wisdom of the ever true saying that "the lie has short legs." We believe that there are limits, however, beyond which the mere retraction of allegations that can cause political and moral damage to a country is not enough. This might become a subject of reflection at the European and international level, so as to ensure a clean and open informational environment, free of the residues of lie and distrust.

News Conference on Council of Europe Visit

AU1809122190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1025 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Interviews-Statements: Liberal Party Pleaded for Romania in Strasbourg"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—During a conference arranged Monday [17 September] evening Radu Campeanu, president of the National Liberal Party, presented the Romanian journalists and the foreign journalists accredited to Bucharest the visit he had paid to the Strasbourg headquarters of the Council of Europe where discussions had been held regarding the possibility of Romania's access to that European body and its "access" to Europe. The speaker showed that the Council had a negative report on the situation in Romania with a great influence upon the decision of not admitting Romania to that body and that the miners' arrival to Bucharest had worsened the Council members' opinions. Mr. Campeanu specified that in his address made to the Council he had asked that decision be not definitive and be changed in keeping with Romania's more palpable and more resolute path toward democracy. The liberal leader stressed in his address that certain steps toward democracy had been made in Romania, that there were a separation of powers, a democratically elected parliament, a press free to criticize and even "curse" anybody. He also specified that there still were administrative measures hindering the freedoms and that the "democratic spirit" was lacking in certain bodies. But as soon as democracy takes concrete forms in Romania, Mr. Campeanu said, I asked that Romania be accepted to that Council.

He also showed that he had presented the Council the country's economic situation, emphasizing that a beginning had been made toward market economy, the government has a bill on privatization and the setting up of commercial societies which is under discussion. I said in Strasbourg that there still are forces which try to keep Romania [at] this level as well as forces which try to change it into a modern, democratic society, Mr.Campeanu said. I emphasized that our path toward democracy is irreversible and there is no possibility to stop this evolution.

Answering the journalists' questions, Mr. Campeanu showed that he held talks in connection with the minorities' situation, especially with the Hungarians' situation. In that framework, the speaker showed that he had explained his hosts that it would be a great mistake to talk about Transylvania's self determination and autonomy because the statistical data showed that five million Romanians and only 1.7 million Hungarians lived there. The borders' question should be also excluded because they had been established in Trianon and after the Second World War and accepted as such. But I added, the liberal leader said, that having established those truths it is our duty to assure the spiritual and cultural identity of that minority as well as of other minorities.

The speaker also made reference to the grave economic situation, the shortages of products in shops, the existence of strikes which illustrate the industry's bad situation, as well as the lack of raw materials. The government, Mr. Campeanu said, will have to take firm action to solve all those questions, to speed up reforms, to liberalize the economy, the only possibilities to get out of the crisis.

Government Statement Welcomes Accord With EEC

AU1809191390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1703 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Romanian Government's Statement"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—Romania's Government has got to know with great satisfaction that the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Common Market has agreed in its session of September 17 to the signing of the agreement of commerce and economic cooperation between Romania and the European Economic Community, initialed on June 8, 1990, reads a statement of the Romanian Government released on September 18.

The Council's decision accounts no doubt for a recognition of the progress marked toward the democratization of the Romanian society, toward political pluralism and the resolute passage to the introduction of the market economy in Romania. Also, it is part of the positive evolutions in Europe lately, a new step toward building a vast institutional framework for the development of the relations of cooperation among the European states, the statement shows.

The Romanian Government expresses the hope that the signing and coming into force of the Romania-EEC agreement will be done soon, which will help expanding the commercial exchanges and economic cooperation between Romania and the Common Market countries and mark an important stage toward this country's association with the European Communities, an objective of profound political and economic significance.

The implementation of the program of economic reforms started by the Romanian Government requires, in Romania's present condition, wide support from the international community. In this respect, the statement stresses, the Romanian Government would highly appreciate if Romania were included the soonest among the beneficiaries of the economic assistance program started by the Western countries' Group of 24.

FRG Businessman Received, Cooperation Viewed

AU1809160890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1347 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—On Tuesday, Romania's prime minister, Mr. Petre Roman, received Mr. Klaus Steillman, president of the same-name company in West Germany.

In a statement to the press at the end of the interview, the West German businessman said he had discussed with the prime minister a programme for the development of cooperation with Romanian enterprises in the ready-mades industry, adding his company had been working with units in that branch for 18 years. He also said: Considering that our relations are set on confidence, we wish to develop cooperation. We have already updated several production halls, equipping them with modern technology. Negotiations have entered an advanced stage on the creation of joint companies with enterprises in Sibiu and Craiova. In Craiova, the West German businessman said, we will build a new ready-mades manufacturing unit, which will be equipped with last-minute technology.

I am fully confident in the growth of cooperation with Romania, he said in conclusion.

Netherlands To Aid Romania in Agriculture, Food

AU1809133590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1011 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—Doru Glaman, director-general of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, reports that the value of the contracts concluded with Dutch authorities tops one hundred million lei. It is about contracts that can be fast applied in agriculture and food industry.

Referring to bilateral cooperation, J.J.Groeneveld, an executive of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries, stated to daily TINERETUL LIBER: Romania is traditionally recognized to have a valuable agricultural potential and is rightly considered as a granary of Europe and of the world as well. Its capitalization through collaboration with us will lead in a first stage to meeting Romania's internal consumption requirements and the joint projects make us confident that in a very near future there will be export availabilities as well. By our presence here and by the documents signed, we will ensure the opening of important credit lines with the Netherlands Government and banks, which is a tremendous step ahead.

Iliescu Receives Italian Financier

AU1809173790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1526 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—Tuesday, September 18, at Cotroceni Palace, President Ion Iliescu received Giuseppe Ciarrapico, president of the "Italfin '80" financial group, with whom he tackled aspects connected to bilateral economic cooperation and opportunities for Italian investment in Romania. The two sides expressed their hope that cooperation would start in the shortest possible time.

President Iliescu reiterated the idea that Romania had definitely taken the course to openness, to economic cooperation with all states, European ones in the first place, and said Italian enterprisers would be welcomed to Romania. Although the transition from an overcentralised to a market economy implies certain difficulties, Romanians sincerely wish to accelerate this process, to create the prerequisites for cooperation with foreign investors, in terms of mutual interest and sound economic relations.

Roman: Bulgarians Add to Pollution in Giurgiu

AU1909122690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1105 GMT 19 Sep 90

["Petre Roman: The Truth About Pollution at Giurgiu"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—Answering a question regarding the way in which some Romanian tourists were treated in Bulgaria, who were assaulted or molested, Romanian Premier Petre Roman stated in an interview for "TINERETUL LIBER" daily: I know that, and we should take firm measures. We have here a very strange phenomenon. Maybe I should use even harder terms. The idea was accredited there that, on the one hand, the pollution of Ruse is disastrous and that, on the other hand, it is the result of the activity of the chemical plant at Giurgiu. Which is partially true. This phenomenon of unjustified and unreasonable augmentation of that idea is in fact of political nature. And it was made not to stain Romania's image but to make political pressures in Bulgaria. A joint commission of experts has been set up who visited both the chemical plant at Giurgiu and the town of Ruse. The results of the inquiry showed that there were many sources of chemical pollution in Ruse which the Bulgarian side had not eliminated although it had pledged to do it. Our chemical plant has taken serious measures to stop the pollution sources. We agreed that international experts may be called to express their opinions. We are not afraid of it. I think that the Bulgarian side should worry about what might be discovered in Ruse. Then there is another delicate question, namely the one concerning the nuclear plant at Kozloduy, built like the one at Chernobyl without protection cap. It should be put under international fora's discussion, which the Bulgarian premier agreed because he also knows that issue very well.

Iliescu Calls for New Structures in Economy

AU1809161990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1334 GMT 18 Sep 90

["From Cotroceni Palace: Ion Iliescu: 'Time Is Running Against Us'"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—At the conclusion of a previous meeting with a NSF [National Salvation Front—FSN] delegation, Ion Iliescu told an "AZI" journalist that we are entering "a new period when parliamentary activity is somehow settling and when a new relationship is developing among political forces, while sometimes essential differences are still there, in the positions, programmes and options of the governmental formation and those of the opposition." There is however, in his opinion, increased political responsibility on the part of groupings and their representatives.

According to President Ion Iliescu, Romania has entered a period when political tension is somehow easing up, but not ceasing—for tension sources are there all the time—while economic difficulties become fully apparent. That is due, he said, on the one hand to the economic inheritance now taking on fresh forms and, on the other hand, to transition itself. All changes in economic structures, the new economic administration pattern, the promotion of new laws for economic reform are themselves sources for trouble, convulsions and detection of inertia factors that need doing away with.

The present moment, stressed President Iliescu, requires that all forces interested in the country's revival should act in unity, regardless of their political options.

Referring to the government decision to speed up reform, Mr. Iliescu showed that old structures collapse and that structures, forms and levers of management should be built instead. "Under the circumstances," he said, "it is imperative to create very soon new legal structures that will give us the necessary instruments to take further action for re-structuring." Given nowadays' dynamic technological and economic progress, said Mr. Iliescu, all mechanical management structures, all pyramidal hierarchies have failed. They have been replaced

by a new cybernetic structure, with all economic agents horizontally interconnected and with self-control elements to regulate the process in its progress. Therefore, Mr. Iliescu added, we need to hurry both in making new laws and in establishing new structures. Unless we solve these problems, he concluded, time is running against us.

Plan to Achieve Social, Economic Reforms Given

AU1909125990 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 15 Sep 90 p 1

[E. Negrea note on "The Program for Coordinating Projects of Economic and Social Reforms"; capitalized passage as published]

[Text] The Romanian Government proposes to achieve the economic and social reform through laws, measures, programs, and through establishing adequate institutions in the following areas:

1. REACTIVATING THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURES;
2. REORGANIZING THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY;
3. REFORM IN THE FIELD OF PRICES AND TARIFFS;
4. REFORM OF THE FINANCIAL-FISCAL SECTOR;
5. REFORM OF THE BANKING SYSTEM;
6. REFORM OF THE MONETARY-HARD CURRENCY SECTOR;
7. REFORM OF THE AGRICULTURE;
8. ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONS WHICH SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ECONOMIC REFORM;
9. PRIVATIZING AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE STATE PROPERTY AND PROMOTING PRIVATE AND MIXED INITIATIVES;
10. ACTIONS TO ENSURE PEOPLE'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD;
11. CREATING A CULTURE AND ATTITUDES AND AN ECONOMIC INSTRUCTION WHICH IS SPECIFIC TO THE MARKET ECONOMY;
12. OUTLINE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFECTIVE TACTICS IN UNDERSTANDING and DIRECTING ECONOMIC PROCESSES;
13. THE PROGRAM OF THE SOCIAL REFORM.

The entire program for achieving the reform was divided in time, for the following periods: September-October 1990; November-December 1990; January-March 1991; April-July 1991; July-December 1991; January-June 1992.

The actions of establishing institutions, adopting laws, organizing programs, and taking measures and initiatives are established for the respective periods and for the aforementioned 13 areas.

Iliescu Receives 'Fratia' Trade Union Delegation

AU1809121990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1115 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—Monday [17 September] afternoon President Iliescu received a delegation of "Fratia" (brotherhood) Union Confederation which includes six professional and three local federations in the fields of transport, research and development, pre-academic education and health.

The meeting occasioned a wide exchange of opinions about the present economic situation and about the important part to be played by trade unions in the process of economic reform.

"Fratia" union representatives once more confirmed they supported the government's economic programme and accepted the moratorium requested by the government, but asked that early action be taken for substantive economic changes to achieve economic and social balance and dismantle the structures inherited from the former regime. The speakers also raised a number of specific issues regarding education and retraining programmes.

"Fratia" delegation requested a fair distribution of the assets of former UGSR (General Trade-Union Confederation of Romania) and asked for government support in overcoming certain financial and material difficulties their union was facing.

After mentioning the constructive approach of "Fratia" union, Mr. Ion Iliescu pointed out that the present period when the economy was being reorganized on efficiency criteria combined with a social security programme, required a union movement with a sound structure. The president said unions could and must become a factor of equilibrium on the way to a market economy. The unions, he said, must encourage social dialogue and settle disputes not by strikes or any further difficulties, but by defusing tension and contributing to the reform-making process as a whole.

Commissions Discuss Unemployment Benefits, Bills

AU1809134690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1014 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—The Romanian parliamentary life is particularly eventful this week. The working agenda of the Assembly of Deputies includes a number of bills initiated by the government as well as answers the executive bodies or ministers have to give to parliamentary groups' questions.

According to the programme adopted by the Assembly, the Mondays and Tuesdays are devoted to the debate and approval, by the specialized standing commissions, of bills referring to important aspects of the economic and social life: the bill on unemployment benefit and retraining of the jobless; the bill on trade register; the bill

on the administrative law office; the bill on Romania's adherence to the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Starting Wednesday, 19 September, the Assembly of Deputies continues debates in plenum on the bill of commercial companies, begun last week, and will discuss bills already passed by its commissions.

The last part of the week is reserved to activities in the constituencies where the deputies were elected.

Initial Stages of Privatization Detailed

AU1809134790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1009 GMT 18 Sep 90

["Economy—The National Agency for Privatization in the Focus Again"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/0/1990—The National Agency for Privatization (ANP) was founded under Law No. 15/1990, with the purpose to implement the set of legal regulations in the change of ownership and on de-nationalization and to study the privatization process throughout the national economy.

Mr. Petre Terzi, state secretary, president of the agency, believes that the extension of the private sector and the normal functioning of small and medium-size enterprises require a new, really stimulating system of credits for private enterprises from financial and banking bodies that should enable the development of activities especially in the field of commodity production. Furthermore, he says, state enterprises must conclude cooperation contracts with private entrepreneurs.

The agency proposes that some regulations which have a negative influence on the activity of private business agents, should be revised, such as: the tax on commodity circulation, which now discriminates between state and private businesses; the law on profit reinvestment now only such amounts from which the tax on gross profit has been deduced may be reinvested, which discourages development of the private sector and prevents its holding a growing share in the national economy; the status of the entrepreneurs themselves who cannot be paid by their own company.

In order to start up the process of privatization, the agency and the Ministry of Finance drew up and issued some methodological norms to regulate the stock-taking and reevaluation of assets of their social capital and transfer to the population 30 per cent of the social capital of the existing state-owned commercial companies according to Law No. 15/1990.

A number of norms and instructions are under way regulating licensing, leasing and renting the administration of economic units, public services and production enterprises. Any natural or juristic person of Romanian or non-Romanian nationality can be the beneficiary of such facilities.

The most important and complex activity now being performed by the agency, says Mr. Petre Terzi, is to write a bill regulating the basic issues of privatization, that will be submitted to the government, to be further discussed by Parliament.

PNT-cd Stance on Agricultural Reorganization

AU1809131490 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 14 Sep 90 p 3

[Unsigned boxed-in note entitled: "We Must Bear in Mind That:"]

[Text] The National Peasants Christian Democratic Party [PNT-cd] is the first democratic party after the 1989 December revolution to clearly raise the question of giving land to the peasants so that they can keep it forever.

Likewise, the PNT-cd imparts a national and profoundly democratic character to the action of assigning land to peasants. Whenever the peasants prefer to preserve the current forms of collective ownership, they are free to do so.

The PNT-cd has worked out a complex reorganization program for Romanian agriculture so it can feed us all. The PNT-cd agricultural program currently is the only coherent program continuously promoted in the Romanian political life. The study, doctrine, and program departments of the PNT-cd are further improving this program.

The PNT-cd has worked out a generous and efficient program for granting old-age pensions to all peasants since they have more than earned this right after half a century of communist slavery.

PNT-cd Unsatisfied With Dialogue With Iliescu

AU1809081390 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 11 Sep 90 p 1

["Communique" of leadership of the National Peasants (Christian Democratic) Party]

[Text] On 7 September 1990 Mr. Ion Iliescu, president of Romania, invited the leaders of the National Peasants Christian Democratic Party [PNT-cd] to Cotroceni Palace for a talk in accordance with his desire to hold consultations with the leaders of the opposition parties. The dialogue was attended on behalf of the PNT-cd by Messrs. Corneliu Coposu, president; Ion Diaconescu, first vice president; and Gabriel Tepelea, member of the party's Executive Bureau and director of the Department of Studies and Doctrine.

The PNT-cd representatives insistently demanded that the campaign of slander and aggression against the opposition stop. Special stress was placed on the 13-15 June 1990 violence and bloodshed.

President Ion Iliescu formally assured the PNT-cd representatives—a fact which was welcomed by the PNT-cd

with satisfaction—that damages caused by aggression will be covered, and that the DREPTATEA newspaper will be given an editorial office in the shortest time possible. No tangible answer was provided in connection with the application for permission to operate an independent television station.

The sides examined the recent important events, as well as the need to call to account those who were guilty of the unrest and destabilization. They also discussed the very serious and bloody events of December 1989, of January and February 1990 (when the opposition was attacked in Bucharest and other towns throughout the country), of March 1990 (when confrontations between Romanians and Hungarians took extreme forms and resulted in dead and wounded), of April and May 1990 (when—during the election campaign—aggression throughout the country also claimed dead and wounded), as well as the 13-15 June 1990 events (when Bucharest witnessed unprecedented violence which was condemned by the public at home and abroad). The conclusions of this examination were viewed as unsatisfactory by our representatives, who insistently demanded that the public be fully and candidly informed about facts.

The PNT-cd is compelled to note that human rights are still not observed in Romania, and truth, as well as normal and civilized relations between the government and opposition, is still not respected. The extremely brutal election campaign and the fraudulent 20 May 1990 elections led to the installment of an executive and legislative power which was not justified by the freely expressed popular will. The excesses by various bodies and groups of repression—including the excesses of 13-15 June 1990—continue to overshadow our public and private life and our country's prestige. The political detainees, who have still not been released, very clearly prove that civic freedoms in our country are only superficial.

At the same time, the PNT-cd has to emphasize that, so far, the transition to market economics is just a mere desire proclaimed in speeches and government programs which have been firmly refuted by facts. Romania of today does not confirm the desire for a market economy. Foreign capital investments, without which economic restructuring cannot be conceived of, are actually not encouraged. The private initiative of enterprisers at home encounters obstacles—those provided for and especially those not provided for by law—which are constantly raised by bureaucracy and the practices inherited from the communist regime.

The PNT-cd is determined to contribute to improving all these serious shortfalls. Otherwise one cannot speak of democracy and a market economy in Romania. President Ion Iliescu's intention to institutionalize this dialogue between the government and opposition—within the civilized framework of parliamentary activity—is welcomed. We want to express the hope that—on the basis of tangible and immediate proof—President Ion Iliescu will demonstrate that the need to cooperate, including through confrontation, is recognized not only by the opposition, but also by the government.

PNT-cd leadership

PSD Wants National Convention for Democracy

AU1809160690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1342 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—A communique from the Romanian Social Democratic Party [PSD], signed by its chairman, Sergiu Cunescu, shows that a "national convention for democracy" should be created to gather the numerous political parties and groups which, though sharing the same democratic ideals, offer different programmatic solutions; a "coordination of action will render futile any tendency towards extremist and dictatorship, no matter where it comes from."

The document defines cooperation of all democratic forces to designate the most competent and honest citizens as candidates for the elections for local bodies as the most important target so that the democratic administration of the country could be secured from the grassroots.

Roman Meets Free Romanians' World Union Leader

AU1809173390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1657 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—Tuesday, September 18, Prime Minister Petre Roman received Doru Novacovici, secretary-general, interim president of the Free Romanians' World Union [FRWU], now on a visit in Romania.

After the call on the prime minister, the president met Romanian journalists to whom he underlined the union's efforts to promote and strengthen freedom and democracy in Romania, for the Romanian people's welfare. The talks with Petre Roman, Anton Vatasescu, Eugen Dijmarescu, Adrian Nastase, with some other prominent figures were mentioned in line with the union's wish to develop cooperation with key persons of Romania's life.

Doru Novacovici said that FRWU would proceed to attracting managers from abroad to Romania, and make them trust this country thus contributing to the transition to the market economy, to privatization in Romanian economy, in its fundamental branches especially. He also spoke of the contacts made for getting the permission of opening a free, independent television station.

Vatra Romaneasca Puts Out New Periodical

AU1909102990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0912 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 19/9/1990—A new publication has been put out—"TARA NOASTRA" [Our Country], a periodical edited by the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union. The publication aims at supporting the union's programme, militating for the national interest, for a good coexistence in Transylvania, for getting the country out of the difficulties confronting it and for consolidating Romania's independence and sovereignty.

Iliescu Receives Handicapped Association Officials

AU1809194590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1818 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—Romanian President Ion Iliescu received on September 18 a delegation of the National Council of the Neuromotory Handicapped of Romania, headed by the council's chairman, Mrs. Ioana Monica Antoci.

Pointing out that the association intended to work in defence of the rights of all kinds of handicapped, the council's representatives applied to the country's president for support in the unfolding of their activities in the best of conditions and for the endorsement of adequate legislative initiatives.

President Ion Iliescu showed understanding for their problems, inquired about the way how the association managed so far to attain the targets pursued, the way how such persons were assisted to get integrated in the society. Romania's president highlighted the necessity that a mixed body of relevant organizations be set up, to help articulating adequate and specific legislation for the protection of the handicapped persons.

Investigation of 13-15 June Events Continues

AU1909082990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0711 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—The commission inquirying into the 13-15 June events resumed its proceedings in plenum. Heard were among others Senator Dan Iosif, the director of the Romanian intelligence service, Virgil Magureanu, Journalist Corneliu Vadim Tudor, editor in chief of "ROMANIA MARE" weekly. Mr. Corneliu Coposu, president of the Christian and Democratic National Peasant Party, requested to testify in connection with the respective events.

Former Sapinta Mayor Goes on Trial in Brasov

AU1909103090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0926 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—The trial of Toader Stetca, ex-mayor of Sapinta Commune started last Tuesday [18 September] in Brasov. He is accused of two outrage offenses on July 9 and 10, 1990.

After the indictment was read, the accused made his statement and seven witnesses were heard.

The counsels for the defense requested that the detention under remand of the defender be overruled, since at the present stage, when witnesses had been heard, there was no danger of stopping the legal action or influencing witnesses.

The prosecutor considered that the reasons for investigative detention were still valid. After deliberation, the panel chairman said that detention under remand could be overruled only when all witnesses had been heard, proposing the proceedings to continue on Wednesday. Since two lawyers claimed to be unavailable, the trial will be resumed on October 3, 1990.

The decision met with fierce protests from over 200 Sapinta citizens in court and outside it under the circumstances, the two lawyers declared themselves available on Wednesday. The panel eventually decided to continue the hearings the next day.

Trial of Former Securitate Officials Resumes

AU1809194190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1800 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1990—The Military Section of the Supreme Court of Justice resumed in Timisoara the trial of former party and state activists, Securitate and militia employees and associates, accused of genocide, complicity in and abetting of this infraction and other penal guilts. The accused are charged with organizing the shooting of unarmed demonstrators or of doing the shooting themselves, with continuing street firing even after Ceausescu's being ousted. About 100 people were shot dead, 300 injured and a great number of demonstrators are reported missing. Some of the accused participated in organizing the abduction from Timisoara's hospital mortuary of 40 bodies-victims shot in the revolution and their secret transportation to Bucharest, where they were cremated, in an attempt to diminish or even clear off the traces of the massacre on the first days of the revolution in Timisoara.

More than 100 people were heard in this trial. The court began the hearing of new witnesses or of witnesses who were absent when first called, and of people who wanted to bear testimony, for both the accusers and the accused.

Ratiu To Visit Constanta for Talks With Strikers

AU1909102890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0929 GMT 19 Sep 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 19/9/1990—As the leader of the trade union organizations of the port Marian Popa assessed, deputy Ion Ratiu announced his arrival in Constanta on Wednesday answering an invitation of the unions on strike.

Government Confirms Embassy in Kuwait Still Open

LD1809143890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1241 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Summary] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—At the SFRY Assembly's Foreign Policy Committee session in the Federal Chamber today, Milivoje Maksic, deputy federal secretary for foreign affairs, was asked about the return of Yugoslav Ambassador Hasan Dervisbegovic from Kuwait.

"It was explained that the ambassador left Kuwait exclusively in 'accordance with the instructions of the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs,' and only when it was concluded that the ambassador was not able to work normally because of the Iraqi occupation. However, Maksic explained, our embassy in Kuwait remains open and it is manned by one member of the technical staff, with whom our embassy in Baghdad is in constant contact, and through it the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs too. It is interesting that the Yugoslav Embassy, of all the embassies of the nonaligned countries in Kuwait, is the only one which has remained open.

"According to Maksic, the departure of our ambassador from Kuwait is 'exclusively a technical question and has no political significance whatsoever.'"

"About 30 Yugoslavs, who for private reasons do not wish to leave Kuwait, remain there, Maksic said."

Envoy's Departure 'Technical Issue'

LD1809163290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1515 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia's deputy secretary Milovoje Maksic told the Federal Assembly today that the departure of the Yugoslav ambassador from Kuwait was solely a technical issue with no political significance.

Maksic said the ambassadors' departure from Kuwait was in accord with the instructions of the Foreign Affairs Secretariat, since the embassy could not operate regularly because of the Iraqi invasion.

He added that the Yugoslav Embassy in Kuwait remained open, and that "one technical staff member" was there with whom both Belgrade and the Yugoslav Embassy in Baghdad were in constant contact.

Croatian Economic Losses From Gulf Crisis Viewed

AU1809152490 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 13 Sep 90 p 3

[M. Tasler report: "Great Harm to the Croatian Economy"]

[Text] Zagreb—Because of the crisis in the Gulf, furniture producers in Croatia cannot at this moment be paid by their partner of many years in Kuwait for furniture exports worth $474,000. The debts of the TEP enterprise in that country amount to $350.5 million. Because of the decision to suspend Kuwait port traffic, the Rijeka "Jugolinija" firm has to add an extra 8 to 9 million dollars as a premium for risk of war to its losses of 4 to 5 million dollars because of increased shipping costs as a result of oil price increases....

According to current information at the disposal of the Council for Promoting Economic Relations With Foreign Countries—on which the Executive Council of the Economic Chamber of Croatia was briefed yesterday—apart from the aforementioned enterprises in Croatia, the Slavonski Brod "Djuro Djakovic" firm will also be greatly harmed solely because of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

The federal directorate for trade and reserves of special purpose goods reached an agreement with the Ministry of Defense of the state of Kuwait on the export of tanks which are produced by "Djakovic" worth $327.7 million and spare parts, teaching aids, and technical information worth $36.5 million. According to this agreement, by the end of the year, "Djakovic" should have delivered to Kuwait special equipment, teaching aids, and 50 tanks worth around $85 million, of which the actual producer will receive around $14 million. Twenty of the already completed tanks are now in the Ploca port.

Croatian textile firms (TIZ in Zadar, "Pounje" in Kostajnica, "Krateks" in Krapina, "Pazinka" in Pazin, "Dalmatinka" in Sinj, ZIVT in Zabok, "Nada Dimic" in Zagreb, and "Oroteks" in Oroslavlje) cannot receive payment of debts of something more than $2 million for exports to Iraq, and almost $13 million worth of debts due to be paid in 1991 now of course have a large question mark hanging over them. The TEP firm has not yet received payment that is due from Iraq for exported goods to the value of $2.3 million [figure as published], and the OLT firm has not received $1.14 million. Both these enterprises also have some more large debts with Iraq which are not yet due to be paid by the latter.

The value of the contract work and equipment of the Croatian enterprises connected with construction in Iraq amounts to about $1.310 billion and unpaid debts amount to $150 million. If one adds to this amount the unexpected debts in Kuwait, the total value of the contract work and equipment in these two countries amounts to about $1.670 billion, while unpaid debts and the possible damage is estimated at $400-500 million.

To in some way alleviate this and other damage caused by the Gulf crisis, the Executive Council of the Economic Chamber of Croatia is asking the federal government to make the decision at today's session to allow the Social Accounting Service to freeze the bank accounts of the enterprises operating in Iraq up to the amount of the unpaid debts; to release these enterprises from having to

pay taxes and contributions until a legal provision is adopted on financially clearing up the damage; to provide long-term and short-term credit intervention to help overcome the illiquidity which could arise if payment for the debts is not received; and adopt a special law which would regulate covering the damage which is directly caused by the Gulf crisis.

Drnovsek Wants To Mediate in Gulf Crisis

AU1809160490 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 15 Sep 90 p 2

[Unattributed TANJUG report: "Drnovsek: Optimism for Solving Crisis"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 14 Sep—Yugoslavia's foreign policy is going through a difficult period because the complicated internal relations are affecting our relations with the rest of the world—this was stated yesterday by Janez Drnovsek, member of the SFRY Presidency, during a conversation with journalists.

Our diplomatic service cannot do much until the situation in the country is resolved, Drnovsek said, but expressed optimism about a solution to the crisis, explaining that the State Presidency has adopted a joint stand according to which mutual blockades must be overcome in a democratic and peaceful way.

Regarding the crisis in the Gulf, Drnovsek said that this is one of the rare situations in which the Nonaligned Movement can play an important role. He said that he had made an offer to the State Presidency that he would personally mediate in endeavors to resolve the crisis.

Bulgaria Prevents Citizens From Crossing Border

LD1709142490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1157 GMT 17 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Skoplje, 17 Sep (TANJUG)—Bulgaria's state security organs yesterday prevented their "unsuitable" citizens from crossing the border and attending a scheduled and agreed border meeting in the Macedonian town of Berovo, some of the Bulgarians who managed to dodge the police blockade said.

According to what these Bulgarians say, who do not want to reveal their identity for fear of possible consequences, members of the Bulgarian National Service for protecting the Constitution (State Security) erected a ramp to check passengers at the border crossing of [name indistinct]. There they thoroughly searched cars and scrutinized the documents of passengers, many of whom were turned back as their passports were seized. Members of the Bulgarian Organization (Ilinden), which advocates the recognition of the national rights of members of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria, were subjected to this treatment.

In protest over such treatment, the Ilinden members announced they would demand the Bulgarian authorities give an official explanation as to why citizens are prevented from visiting border meetings in Yugoslavia. They will also demand that the passports confiscated by the (political) police be returned. Unless their demands are met, they will, as they announced, inform the foreign press and the embassies in Sofia about this drastic violation of human rights. [passage omitted]

Statement on Border Incident With Bulgaria

LD1809125390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1205 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—Competent Yugoslav military organs today confirmed that an incident took place on the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border on 15 September in which two Bulgarian citizens were killed. The following is the text of a statement received by TANJUG:

"On Saturday 15 September at about 1230 [1030 GMT] a border patrol apprehended two Bulgarian citizens, Nace and Damjan Pancev, who had illegally crossed the Yugoslav-Bulgarian border in the area covered by the Bezdanica border observation post. In an attempt to resist arrest the two Bulgarian citizens physically attacked two border guards. Despite warnings Nace and Damjan Pancev continued to fight with the patrol members. (?In self-defense) and acting in line with border guard regulations the border patrol fired shots into the air as a warning. This was ignored by the Bulgarians. The patrol proceeded to use firearms again this time killing the two Bulgarians. Our investigative organs began an investigation into the incident shortly after it happened. Bulgarian authorities were informed about the incident within the period envisaged by interstate agreements and invited to join the investigation. An investigation is under way to establish the circumstances under which the two Bulgarians lost their lives."

Rumors of Romanian 'Colonization' in Istria Denied

LD1809114990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0935 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Pula, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—There is no plan to settle emigrants from Romania in either Istria or any other part of Croatia, Gojko Susak, Croat Minister for Emigrants Affairs, said in a statement to Glas Istre [the Voice of Istria].

According to Susak it is "not true that there is a plan to settle 20,000 to 30,000 people in Istria in order to alter the ethnic composition there. About 2,000 Croats are expected to immigrate from Romania. Their resettlement will proceed according to requests from individual muncipalities. Under a plan they will be housed in socially-owned apartment blocks throughout Croatia, Minister Susak stressed.

Glas Istre contacted Minister Susak following a memo from the Croat Ministry for Foreign Relations to the

Executive Councils of Istria municipalities (and to all municipalities in Croatia) which sparked off an avalanche of rumors about the alleged colonization of Istria.

Loncar Speaks in Strasbourg on Europe, Democracy

LD1809171990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1247 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Strasbourg, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar, while not pleading for unrealistic solutions, or moves which could dilute everything that has been achieved so far in European democratic processes, said at a seminar "Europe—Roads to Democracy," held in Strasbourg today, that importance should be attached to the following possibilities.

To render the CSCE, as an institution now functioning on a nonbloc basis, capable of functioning on an interbloc basis, so that it can advance general European interests.

To linking European institutions, such as the European Council, with the CSCE system.

To moving the weight of security from national or regional systems to a universal system of UN security and the European security system within the CSCE ambit.

And, fourth, to the gradual growth of the EC, as the nucleus and the driving force of economic and technological development in Europe, into a general European project and organism.

Loncar stressed that democracy does not tolerate borders and restrictions, and that it is to be hoped, therefore, that goodwill, strength and courage will be found whereby after the Berlin Wall has been brought down, no new wall will emerge between those who [words indistinct] peace and security in Europe, Loncar said, tied up with world security, not only because this time has come for Europe to export prosperity and peace rather than the horrors of war, but also because the European system cannot remain passive and indifferent [words indistinct].

Economic development and prosperity in Europe cannot coexist so [words indistinct] the troubles of the so-called Third World [words indistinct] considering the problems, needs and demands of the developing countries are incompatible with the spirit of democracy and the interests of European and international stability, Loncar said.

I hail from a country which is becoming incorporated in European institutions and integrations, Loncar said, a country in which rapid economic and political changes are underway, but also a country in which great difficulties resulting from the revival of the complex heritage and consequences of old mistakes are present.

Nonetheless, when we in Yugoslavia talk about democracy we do not see it without any of its indissoluble parts: A free contest of ideas and energy in a multiparty parliamentary society, market economy, and respect for human rights and democratic freedoms as the supreme values which preordain the aspirations and the future of a free society.

However, Loncar warned, democracy's Achilles' heel is that it opens up the scope for undercurrents and forces which could pose a threat to democracy and even destroy it. This applies particularly to nationalistic and other claims, which are destroying the democratic tissue of Europe.

The status of national minorities is also the acid test of European democracy. Europe will attain the highest level of freedom and full democratic maturity when European citizens, as individuals, will be free and on equal footing with others because they are first and foremost human beings, and only then members of a national minority whose equality is the foundation of every democratic society and of the whole of democratic Europe, Budimir Loncar said.

Minority Rights Discussed With Hungarian Official

LD1809210290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1949 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia and Hungary are against the political abuse of national minorities in international relations, although they both believe that it is very important to persist in the protection of the rights of minorities in Europe and include them in the CSCE documents.

This was pointed out in the talks held by Secretary of State in the Hungarian Government Entc Geza in Belgrade today.

Entc and Yugoslav Deputy Foreign Secretary Milivoj Maksic positively assessed bilateral relations in the field of national minorities.

Entc said that his country attached equal importance to the problems of Hungarians living outside their homeland and to the national minorities in Hungary.

The Yugoslav side presented concrete documents on the equality of Hungarians in Yugoslavia with Yugoslav nations.

The Hungarian official was also received by the deputy prime minister of Serbia, a Yugoslav republic Bordering Hungary. They assessed that despite the successful development of bilateral coopertion, many significant possibilities remained unused.

Entc ends his visit to Yugoslavia in Novi Sad, the capital of Serbia's northern province of Vojvodina, tomorrow.

FEC Says Kacanik Meeting 'Unconstitutional Act'

LD1809133390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1245 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—The Federal Executive Council today considered the overall political and security situation in the country and came to the conclusion that the secret meeting of citizens of Albanian nationality in Kacanik on 7 September, which has been presented to the public as a session of the Kosovo Assembly at which the so-called constitution of Kosovo was adopted and the so-called Republic of Kosovo proclaimed, was yet another unconstitutional act and a direct attack on the territorial integrity of both Serbia and Yugoslavia.

This and similar activities elsewhere in the country are leading to further confrontations within Yugoslavia and are further exacerbating interethnic relations, the Federal Executive Council stresses in a statement from today's session. Such moves merely serve to hamper and halt the course of political and economic reforms in the country.

The Federal Executive Council is of the view that the problems of Kosovo and of the country, in general, must and can only be resolved by persistent implementation of the reform program, by democratization of social relations in the country, by multiparty pluralism and multiparty elections as guarantees of citizens' constitutional rights and of the interest of all our nations and nationalities.

The Federal Executive Council will resolutely, persistently, and without hesitation take all the measures within its powers to guarantee equality for all nations and nationalities in Yugoslavia, to safeguard the integrity of the SFRY and of each of the republics, and to ensure an unhindered implementation of political and economic reforms already underway in the country.

Kosovo Constitution Condemned

LD1809154190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1510 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Federal Government today qualified the adoption of the "Constitution of the Kosovo Republic" as a direct attack on the integrity of the republic [words indistinct] Yugoslavia, as a whole.

At a secret session which seems to have been held ten days or so ago, ethnic-Albanian delegates of the dissolved Assembly of the Yugoslav Autonomous Province of Kosovo adopted the so-called constitution which defines Kosovo as a separate state, committing an act which is in violation of the [words indistinct] minority the ethnic [words indistinct] in Yugoslavia and of provisions of the Helsinki Convention.

The unlawful constitution has been endorsed by all ethnic-Albanian opposition parties in Kosovo and also individual smaller parties and [words indistinct] the Republic of Slovenia.

The federal government said it would take "all measures" to ensure the equality of nations and nationalities in Yugoslavia and preserve the territorial integrity of the country and each of its six republics.

The Federal Justice Secretary Vlado Kambovski today sent a letter to the leadership of the Democratic Union of Kosovo, the strongest ethnic-Albanian opposition party in the province, requesting that it within three days take a stand on the position of its president Ibrahim Rugova, who has upheld the "Constitution of the Kosovo Republic."

The federal government ten days ago registered the Democratic Union of Kosovo. Since the "Constitution of the Kosovo Republic" is an unlawful act, which violates the country's integrity, the party's leadership has now been asked to take a stand on its leader's statement.

Kosovo Internal Situation at 'Critical Point'

LD1809214990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2006 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—The political and security situation in the province of Kosovo has reached "critical point," Assistant Yugoslav Interior Minister Petar Misovic said at a session of the National Assembly committee for internal relations in Belgrade today.

Peace and public order in Kosovo are maintained above all owing to the efforts of the security organs of Serbia, a part of which Kosovo is, and the combined federal police unit, Misovic added.

Ethnic Albanian separatists, however, are opposing the measures introduced by the Republic of Serbia and waging an aggressive propaganda in an attempt to create an impression among the people that an armed conflict is unavoidable, Misovic said.

Misovic characterised the recent illegal proclamation of the republic of Kosovo, when it adopted a constitution suspending Serbia's state organs, as an open invitation to changes in internal borders and a violent destruction of the constitutional order of Serbia and Yugoslavia.

Despite Misovic's warnings, the Federal Assembly delegates ended their session today without adopting conclusions and decided to continue the debate at their next session.

Secret Armed Units Reportedly Exist in Kosovo

AU1909050290 Belgrade NARODNA ARMIJA in Serbo-Croatian 13 Sep 90 p 15

[Milovan Milutinovic report: "Secret Armed Units"]

[Text] Secret armed units are unofficially reported to have been formed in Kosovo and to have armed themselves in preparation for "the moment of decision." This

is established by the frequent disappearance of explosives from mines, quarries, and other sites; the purchase of large quantities of solvents; and the discovery of increasing numbers of contraband weapons. However, the real question is how many undiscovered weapons exist, and what are they for?

Enormous sums of money, primarily hard currency, circulate in Kosovo. It comes from very diverse sources. It is unofficially reported that it comes from the resources of extremist political emigres, income from the smuggling of weapons and drugs, citizens' voluntary contributions, and especially the "taxes" levied by the Alternative on the owners of private businesses in Kosovo and throughout the country. These resources are controlled by the leaders of the Albanian Alternative, who almost daily visit the metropolises of the world and organize gala receptions, living lives of wealth and ease, while the majority of the Albanian population eke out a subsistence.

Kosovo Alliance Leader on Albanians' 'Endurance'

AU1809143690 Skopje FLAKA E VELLAZERIMIT in Albanian 14 Sep 90 p 8

[Report on interview with Jusuf Buxhovi, secretary of the Kosovo Democratic Alliance, by Ali Olloni; place and date not given: "We Have Strength and Patience To Confront Even This Turmoil"]

[Text] We recently talked to Jusuf Buxhovi, a RILINDJA journalist and editor of many years' standing and once the paper's Bonn correspondent, the author of several well-received novels who has a master's degree in history, and secretary of the Kosovo Democratic Alliance [DSK].

[Olloni] The DSK was founded at a time when the first political parties were appearing in the northern part of Yugoslavia, while among us Bolshevism tried to strengthen itself through state repression and political violence.

[Buxhovi] It is now perfectly obvious what a waste of time bureaucratic socialism was. The enthusiasm unleashed at the time of the October Revolution was nothing but a source of major disillusionment for a large section of mankind.

The socialist experiment was even more difficult for the Albanians in Yugoslavia, because, besides bureaucratic and statist violence, they were also burdened by Great Serbian hegemonism, which was highly skilled in exploiting communist slogans to adapt to new circumstances and continue its old tune, begun in the time of Milos Obrenovic [1780-1860, Serbian prince] and continued in the time of Pasic and the Yugoslav kings, who with the schemes of Cubrilovic [Vaso Cubrilovic, 1897-90, historian and author of a plan for the deportation of Albanians to Turkey] institutionalized the annihilation of the Albanians and put such ideas into practice. On the eve of World War II and during it, the Communists promised to justly settle the Albanian question and to redress the injustices done to the Albanians under the Yugoslav monarchy. However, they not only failed to solve the Albanian question, but burdened it with fresh problems. For instance, the Albanians were transformed from a people into a national minority, and were always treated as "a dangerous foreign body" in the community of the south Slavs, against whom "special measures," states of emergency, and military rule were applied, and who were declared separatist "counterrevolutionaries," and so forth. It is now known that such devices were used to force them to emigrate to Turkey and in the last 10 years to the United States, Canada, Australia, and other countries of the world. Unfortunately, unprecedented state violence was used for a long time in communist Yugoslavia, and in the last ten years it assumed the dimensions of state terror which began to imperil the Albanians' very physical existence.

Fortunately, the Bolshevik and Stalinist citadels of the countries of the East began to fall last year, and even here the winds of democracy began to blow. Aware that such processes gave them the opportunity to free themselves not only from bureaucratic violence but from statism and hegemonism, the Albanians quickly joined the general democratic current and came out in favor of political pluralism. The foundation of the DSK in December of last year and its explosive growth were nothing but the consequence of this aim.

Degeneration and a Gangrenous Organism

[Olloni] However, the DSK was formed under the conditions of the state of emergency imposed in March last year, when Kosovo's autonomy was taken away by force. At that time, the Communists were still strong and did not think that they would be broken. They threatened that they would settle accounts with all their "opponents," even imprisoning them. Did you not fear that the nucleus of the DSK would end up at a show trial as an "illegal hostile organization," as was the general rule with those who thought differently from the party?

[Buxhovi] Fortunately, the communists had already begun to degenerate and it was only a matter of time before their entire gangrenous organism perished. The Slovenes and Croats were determined to persist to the end, despite the constant threats to them by the "defenders of Yugoslavism." We knew there was no turning back and that the only salvation for us was to found a democratic party which would gather all our intellectual and creative energies which had been suppressed for many years. This large number of Albanian intellectuals provided a sound starting point from which we could set off toward political pluralism.

When we formed the DSK on 23 December last year, we genuinely believed that its 22-strong founding council and the 136 members of its founding assembly could end

up in prison as "members of a hostile organization," but no possible imprisonment or any other repressive measure which might have been undertaken could prevent the spread of a democratic spirit among us. Nevertheless, the communists from the very start hurled themselves against us with the kind of slander in which they were so skilled. They tried to scare us and to prevent people from joining us. However, this was soon seen to be futile, because socialism and everything it did was a historical failure.

[Olloni] Your program was for a long time accused of being nationalist and it was even said that you were "deceiving the Albanian people" and leading them toward separatism.

[Buxhovi] The attacks on us were always random. The communists and socialists attacked us incessantly because they had lost. The more they saw the truth about their collapse, the more they attacked us. This biased propaganda of the communists and socialists made the people turn to us even more strongly. We had no need to publicize our program or appeal for members. Those who constantly attacked us did this best. Of course, our program was a public one, and was the same as it still is. We have never claimed that it is perfect, but it is a fact that it is by this virtue free of ideology. It hesitates to give answers to some intractable problems. It leaves matters open so that they can be solved by democratic means. In time, our program will be expanded and will also embody the historical ambitions of our population to live in democracy and equality with others in the family of Europe.

There Can Be No Apartheid Zones in Europe

[Olloni] The Albanian question is at present an open issue in Yugoslavia, Europe, and the United States. The work of the DSK and the Kosovo Alternative has contributed to this. Might European and U.S. diplomacy be expected to take any concrete step toward a just solution of our cause?

[Buxhovi] Our fair advocacy of democracy and for a solution to all problems by democratic means and not by violence has led to a proper understanding of the cause of the Albanians in Yugoslavia in all its drama, and of the consequences which may follow for the Balkans and Europe as a whole if it is not settled justly. Europe is convinced that it is a matter of an unsolved question and not of "counterrevolutionary pressures" or the other vacuous slogans with which Belgrade tries to win over the world. For the first time, Europe and the world see matters straight, and they realize that it is not a question of irredentism of any kind or of a fundamentalist-Marxist movement aiming to destroy Yugoslavia, but of a democratic movement for equality with others within the Yugoslav community. Always enduring the most savage forms of repression, through democratic means and without violence, the Albanians are seen to be victims of discrimination and state terror. This is a great moral and political victory on an international scale. More than 100 years of Great Serbian hegemonist propaganda has striven to portray the Albanians to Europe as a barbaric people unworthy of democracy. For more than 100 years, besides this propaganda, work has been continuing to realize the ideas of Garasanin [Ilija Garasanin, 1812-1874, Serbian politician]. Because of the just endurance of our people and of the Kosovo Alternative, Europe has seen the tr th. It, therefore, now has no difficulty in taking a stand. This is shown by the many resolutions taken in our favor. Those of the European Parliament and the European twelve are particularly outstanding. I am convinced that democratic Europe and America will also take concrete steps to force Serbia and Yugoslavia to treat the Albanians as equal members of the Yugoslav community. However, one cannot wait for things to happen overnight.

[Olloni] We are living in very depressing times. Where does the DSK see a solution?

[Buxhovi] The DSK sees a solution in the victory of democratic forces in Yugoslavia, and thus in Serbia itself, too. There is no force which can halt the democratic processes which have begun among us. Despite the obstacles placed in their path, they will triumph. The Albanians have now lost all rights and are living under total police occupation. They now do not even have any media in their mother tongue. A curtain of silence has descended on them. However, this itself gives hope that the repression cannot last, however powerful and pitiless it may be in action (as in the dismissals from work, the closure of schools, hospitals, and cultural institutions, the plundering of material resources, etc.). Our people have strength and patience to confront even this turmoil. If they continue to pursue their road toward democracy with dignity, without responding to the daily serious provocations around them, then there can be no doubt that this violence will not break them. There can be no special apartheid zones, such as Kosovo is today, in Europe. This, too, will soon come to an end, whether its authors wish it or not. The fact that they are destroying everything and have failed to find Quislings among the Albanians to carry out their plans is the best guarantee that such policies will miscarry, although they will unfortunately leave behind broken bridges between two peoples.

Serbia Condemns 'Recessionist' Economic Policy

LD1809183490 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1717 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—A concept according to which any republic in Yugoslavia would have a privileged position is unacceptable for Serbia, is the basic stand presented in the six reform documents adopted by the government of Yugoslavia'a largest republic today.

The document about the economic reform states that Serbia does not accept the "recessionist concept of economic policy," a concept for which Serbia has in the

first place been criticizing the second package of measures of Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic's government.

In the context of potitical reforms, the Serbian Government stresses Serbia's opposition to the efforts of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia "unilaterally to impose a semi-confederate or asymmetrical reconstruction of Yugoslavia," which would give the two republics a privileged position.

Pointing out that federal laws and other regulations are being suspended as part of the above efforts, the Serbian Government underscores that Serbia does not accept a "subordinated position" and insists on a concept of a "genuine federation" in which no republic would have supremacy.

The package of the reform documents adopted by the Serbian Government includes programmes for a reform of the fiscal system, the agricultural sector, public services and the (?housing) policy, and a document on the republic's further technological development.

'Rift' in Croatian Party Leadership Announced

AU1809192590 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] After the Perinovic case in the Croatian Democratic Community, a rift has also occurred among the top leadership of the Party of Democratic Action [SDA]. Journalists were told today that there is a rightist clerical militant wing within this Muslim party and that one of the vice presidents [?of the party] has been dismissed. Here is a report from Sarajevo by Ljubo Nikolic:

[Nikolic] Today's announcement by part of the SDA leadership was like a bolt out of the blue for the journalists. At the news conference at the Sarajevo Holiday Inn this afternoon, the party vice president Adil Zulfikarpasic and Professor Muhamed Filipovic have made it known that there is a rightist militant extremist and clerical wing within the SDA leadership which has been causing damage to the party, to its leadership, and to the Muslim people. Islamic symbols at party gatherings and extremist behavior of some of the participants were meant to make Muslims quarrel with Serbs and Croats and to create fear and anxiety among the people. All that has been alienating the intelligentsia and the youth from the party and creating an inflammable situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina before the elections.

It was said that the party president, Alija Izerbegovic, is conservative and that he is indecisive in coming to grips with such phenomena and the extremist behavior, as well as that the vice president, Salim Sapic, who is living in Zagreb, has been an active collaborator of the counterintelligence service for many years and is now working in the SDA.

This was also asserted about some other people who have had a significant impact on the party's work and actions. Zulfikarpasic and Filipovic say that Omer Behmen from Mostar was against intellectuals in the party and in favor of semi-literate muezzins and imams. It was also said that 70 percent of Islamic clergyman collaborate with the Security Service and that they are going to be replaced.

We are in favor of a democratic European modern party of Muslims which would be open to all democratically oriented Muslims, as well as members of other peoples. We are particularly interested in cooperation with those democratic parties which are in favor of asserting self-identity of Bosnia-Hercegovina and a joint and peaceful life of its peoples, Adil Zulfikarpasic and Muhamed Filipovic said.

They and the like-minded people will demand an extraordinary assembly of the party at which changes in the organization and activity of the SDA will be carried out. This assembly will be held within 10 days.

Split Between 'Hawks,' 'Doves' in Vojvodina

AU1809082890 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 12 Sep 90 p 6

[M. Nedeljkov report: "Kertes and Sipovac See Things Differently"]

[Text] Novi Sad—Just as many realistic observers had perceived, and official politicians and some journalists had tried to refute, two different parallel policies are being conducted in the Vojvodina political leadership. On one side, there is the so-called moderate line of the "doves," headed by Nedeljko Sipovac, member of the Executive Council of the Main Council of the Socialist Party of Serbia, and some other members of the Presidium of the Provincial Committee of the League of Communists of Vojvodina, while on the other side, there are the "hawks" of the first eliminator of autonomists and all those who are not all that in favor of a unified Serbia, Mihajl Kertes, member of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Serbia and Main Council of the Socialist Party of Serbia.

"There is only one policy in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, which has been chosen by the people," Nedeljko Sipovac was categorical in his reply to a journalist's question in VECERNJI LIST. "Perhaps there are different methods in achieving aims but the essence is the same. Some people are in favor of more democratic options but others want to achieve these aims following a shorter route."

This same thing is confirmed by a man who says what he is expected to say, Rajko Popovic, member of the Main Council, when he stressed that "Mihajl Kertes is being manipulated in an attempt to prove that there are two parallel policies in Vojvodina, which is nothing but speculation and manipulation." Popovic also stresses that this is being done by some journalists who are trying to "thus wreak revenge on some politicians."

All this would probably have remained like this, had Mihajl Kertes himself not appeared on Indjija Radio and said very specifically:

"A dual policy is definitely being conducted in Vojvodina because we in Vojvodina have done nothing even though we had the historical opportunity." Kertes was very clear: "The autonomists have now been resurrected and a coalition definitely exists."

The member of the Presidency of the Socialist Republic of Serbia thought that it was not a good thing that a dual policy is being conducted toward Serbia and that it is focussed on him personally, but he was very clear when it came to responsibility.

"In a house where it is known exactly who is the oldest, there cannot be the situation whereby those in a subordinate office spit on me," Kertes said. By spitting on Mihajl Kertes, one is actually spitting on the new policy of Serbia, too. Someone promised a post to Jova Rados, executive secretary, and Dusan Radjenovic, member of the Presidency, only so that they could spit on me.

Alliance of Reformist Forces Registers in Bosnia

LD1809104290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0938 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Summary] Sarajevo, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—The Alliance of Reformist Forces [Savez Reformskih Snaga] in Bosnia-Hercegovina was registered in the Sarajevo High Court today. Dr Nenad Kecmanovic is the chairman of the party.

Slovenia Supports Priority of Republican Laws

LD1809181590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1606 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—The parliamentary Constitutional Commission of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia today approved the text of a draft amendment to the republican Constitution, under which the republican laws are to be given precedence over the federal.

Under the draft amendment, the republic's territorial defense commander is to be appointed by the republic's Presidency, and not, as so far, by the Presidency of Yugoslavia. The republic is also itself to regulate the military service matters.

The Constitutional Commission has urged the Slovene parliament not to approve the amendments to the federal Constitution, since they have been proposed in an "illegal manner," as "not all the federal units are participating" in the proceedings.

The Assembly of the autonomous province of Kosovo, which is a part of the Republic of Serbia, is not participating in the proceedings for the adoption of the amendments to the federal Constitution, since it was dissolved in early June, after ethnic Albanian delegates adopted a "constitutional declaration" proclaiming Kosovo a separate federal unit.

Slovene Assembly Head on Relations With Serbia

AU1909130290 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 14 Sep 90 p 8

[D. Draskovic report: "Confederation Suits Serbia"]

[Text] Ljubljana—In our "May Declaration" we stated that we want Slovenia to first become sovereign and independent, and only then to hold a referendum in which people would decide on a confederation or secession—this was stated in "Focus," a current affairs program on the second channel of Slovene Television, the day before yesterday by France Bucar, president of the Slovene Assembly, commenting on the speech by Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency. Dr. Bucar also said that the Federal Presidency is exerting pressure on Slovenia to make a draft of a confederal treaty one of the possible options, adding that nothing final could be offered before the referendum is held, because this kind of a document is not a menu for choosing one dish or another.

The current Slovene authorities can only talk about different models and conditions that confederal relations would require, but it does not have powers to make a specific proposal. Bucar said that Slovenia should first of all become fully sovereign and independent and only then let people decide by way of a referendum whether they want to be a separate state or part of a confederation. Bucar also disagreed with the conclusion, based on Slobodan Milosevic's statement that "Slovenia and Croatia are not the cause of all problems," that the situation is perhaps calming down. In fact, the president of the Slovene Assembly stressed, things are coming to a head. "Yugoslavia has, because of its Constitution, found itself in a position in which it cannot operate normally. It is good that the Federal Presidency has come to the conclusion that we cannot find a way out of the impasse through the Constitution. This is great progress, but one must not forget what has been served up to us so far: We are complete favor of your working and making decisions the way you want, but only in a legal and constitutional manner."

Speaking about the part of Dr. Jovic's speech which referred to Slovenia and Croatia, Dr. Bucar said that this was a "typical Serbian view" and concluded that Yugoslavia is not Serbia, and that Croatia and Slovenia are Yugoslavia's parts too. If Slovenia and Croatia vote in favor of a confederation they must not be considered seceded parts. One must not think in this way at all because this would raise a big question of what one would inherit from the state. This could have considerable consequences for our international relations, when it comes to international recognition agreements, and above all the division of state property.

The question of relations with Serbia was also unavoidable. Dr. Bucar started this topic by citing the views of foreign diplomats who support Slovenia's efforts, but not secession, something, as he said, "Serbian politicians exploited. Things are now completely reversed. We need continuity in Yugoslavia but the Serbs do not want a confederation. When Serbia gets rid of its obsession about being threatened it will understand that its interests would be best expressed and protected through a confederal organization."

Thousands Protest in Kicevo Over Water Dispute

AU1809203990 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Several thousand people are protesting in Kicevo this evening, because a valve on the regional water supply from the Studencica has been closed. Citizens of Prilep, Krusevo, and Makedonski Brod are receiving water from this water supply, too. The Kicevo people are of the opinion that they have priority in receiving water, so this water supply has become a bone of contention between the three communes and Kicevo. The Kicevo communal leadership does not want to accept the measures carried out by the republican authorities with a view to calming and solving the Studencica situation. We have a report from Skopje by our correspondent Boris Djordjioski:

[Djordjioski] Early this morning, with the help of the militia, members of a working group of the republican Executive Council closed down the output valve at the Village of Drugovo and thus stopped the water outflow into the Studencica. Prilep, Makedonski Brod, and Krusevo are now receiving water and Kicevo is receiving less of it. This was done in accordance with the conclusions of the Macedonian Assembly and at the advice of experts of the Belgrade Jaroslav Cerni Institute who, after visiting the water supply, warned about the possibility of damage exactly at this valve because it had rusted.

This has been said in a rather curt statement issued after the session the Macedonian Government held this morning. It is also said that the Government is surprised at the aggressiveness and egoism of the Kicevo citizens who are threatening to bring down the [word indistinct], so that nobody would have water.

The announcement goes on to say that lives of the members of the working group who closed the valve and the lives of some journalists from Macedonian media were threatened today. Thanks only to militia intervention, the worst has been avoided, although some journalists have still had a bad experience.

Heading the discontented group is the Kicevo communal leadership who, as it claims, was informed by Gligorije Gogovski, president of the republican Executive Council, this morning that it had been suspended. The members of the leadership claim that the present protest is in fact their coming to grips with the republican bureaucracy.

Several thousand people are still in the streets of Kicevo. They are demanding the resignation of Gligorije Gogovski as well as two vice presidents of the republican Executive Council, Vasil Vlaski and Tito Belicanec, because they are considered to be the main culprits to blame for such a great politization of this communal problem.

While these very loud protests are continuing in Kicevo, the Macedonian Government is holding an extraordinary session in Skopje discussing the situation in Kicevo and Studencica.

Jovic's Proposal for National Referendum Viewed

AU1809084590 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 13 Sep 90 p 3

[Aleksandar Milosevic commentary: "Jovic's Recipe"]

[Text] For Dr. Borisav Jovic there is no dilemma over how to resolve the political crisis in Yugoslavia. The recipe is simple—Yugoslavia must remain a federation, and this is the starting point for the resolution of all difficulties.

Jovic prattled on about this idea for a full two hours on Tuesday [11 September] evening on the Belgrade Television program "Themes and Dilemmas," helped along by questions from viewers and two journalists. Whoever cares even slightly about democracy cannot challenge citizen Jovic's right to present his view of the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis, but when he appears in the role of the first among equals in the collective head of state, then one can and must expect Dr. Jovic to have more statesmanlike wisdom, respect for a different viewpoint, and the ability to reach a solution through dialogue which would be acceptable to everyone. Unfortunately, there was none of this in Dr. Borisav Jovic's performance.

Jovic obviously sees Slovenia and Croatia as the causes of the present crisis along with their demands for Yugoslavia to be redesigned, which imply a confederation instead of the present quite ineffectual federation. Not once did Jovic disassociate himself from questions from some viewers and the claims of the journalists in the studio that winds blow from the northwest of the country which are destroying Yugoslavia and causing the present interethnic crisis. Jovic also accepted the distinct claim by one viewer that Yugoslavia is being destroyed by Peterle, Tudjman, and Racan, so the question arises of how cooperation is possible between Jovic and these politicians who, whether some people like it or not, are an expression of the will of the citizens of these republics or the parties to which they belong.

Passing over the situation in Kosovo and in some other parts of the country, Jovic dealt primarily with the situation in Slovenia and Croatia and particularly in the Knin region. In the president's assessment, the rebels in Knin must return their weapons but "only after the causes of the revolt have been eliminated." He did not

explain who will assess whether the causes have been eliminated and how. This claim, voiced at a moment when an initial agreement has been reached between the leadership of Croatia and the leaderships of some communes in the Knin region on the normalization of the situation, only stokes up the fire and represents support for those who want to settle the political and interethnic relations in the country with arms and the tactics of highwaymen.

President Jovic allowed the possibility of the majority of citizens in Croatia voting on a confederal Yugoslavia in a possible referendum, but then immediately threatened that those who are not satisfied with this will have the right in a new referendum to decide on what side of the border they want to live! In other words, the warning has been given to champions of a confederation that if a confederation is created, they cannot count on their own territorial integrity. Jovic did not explain whether this rule also applied to others in the country, but it would be interesting to hear what he thinks about the rights of citizens in the Sandzak or Kosovo to decide in a referendum whether they want to live on one or the other side of the Serbian border.

The journalists Mila Stula and Predrag Vitas were a story in themselves. Presenting a preconceived idea on the destroyers of Yugoslavia coming from the northwest of the country, they managed to alarm even the federalist Jovic with their aggressiveness and unsuitable comments.

With his public statement and presentation of his own vision of the resolution to the Yugoslav political crisis, Dr. Jovic has surely eliminated the dilemmas in a part of Yugoslavia concerning the way in which the talks on the future of Yugoslavia will proceed. They will not be easy, and more patience and wisdom will be needed than Dr. Jovic has shown at this time.

Markovic Stresses Enforcement of Income Laws

LD1809173790 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1340 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—The law on personal incomes must be enforced at any price, Ante Markovic, Federal Executive Council [FEC] president, said in the course of talks with directors general of republican and provincial social accountancy services. Otherwise, the further implementation of the reform will be in jeopardy.

Personal incomes have breached realistically set limits in all republics and provinces. Unwarrantedly high personal incomes have a double negative effect. First, they put pressure on demand and consumption, and take up enormous bank funds which are channeled into consumption instead of industry. Second, at the same time, the public expenditure cost is escalating [words indistinct], the FEC president said. [passage omitted]

Markovic, Republic Officials Agree on Direction

LD1809221690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1952 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—The economic policy of the Federal Government has passed the most difficult test-practice, it was concluded at today's meeting of Yugoslav Premier Markovic and the premiers of the Yugoslav republics and provinces.

It was established at the meeting that the basic aims of the current economic policy are being realized—stability and the convertibility of the national currency, the dinar, higher exports and imports, a gradual growth of prices and the beginning of the restructuring of the economy.

However, it was indicated, as reported, that some developments in the area of spending and the non-implementation of the law on salaries could seriously threaten the goals of the current economic policy. This year should end as planned if spending is kept within agreed frameworks over the next three months and the law on salaries is observed. The further drop in industrial production has been halted over the past few months and additional export exemptions should contribute to this.

Parties Seen as Deviating From Program Goals

LD1809185290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1347 GMT 18 Sep 90

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Sep (TANJUG)—It is obvious that some political parties, and primarily their leaders, are deviating from the proclaimed program goals as set out in their documents, according to a statement from today's meeting between Federal Secretary for Justice and Administration, Vlado Kambovski and the republican secretaries.

Unlawful activity of registered parties could provide grounds for their ban, if they are working on the break-up of the country's territorial integrity and are kindling national hatred.

The recent proclamation of the so-called Kacanik constitution was assessed as a grave unconstitutional act aimed at breaking up the territorial integrity of Serbia and hence of Yugoslavia [words indistinct].

The public support given by the leader of the Kosovo Democratic Alliance to the constitution is a glaring example of (?unconstitutional) activity. It was also assessed that representatives of other parties [words indistinct].